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SOCCER MAGAZINE**

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match

WORLD CUP

WEEKLY

**2ND
ROUND**

**COLOUR
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from

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N.IRELAND v AUSTRIA

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BELGIUM v POLAND

FRANCE v AUSTRIA

Plus

GRAHAM RIX
-THIRST FOR GLORY

**DAVID
M'CREERY**

-'I LONG
TO RETURN'



EXCLUSIVE!

**ZBIGNIEW BONIEK SAYS:
'I wanted to play for Man. Utd'**

HOME HEADS

WE are out of the World Cup Finals, but we returned home with our heads held high!

Our dream, which seemed to go on and on, finally came to an end with the 4-1 defeat at the hands of a very talented French side.

Even though the scoreline might have looked like an easy victory for the French, we had absolutely nothing to be ashamed of.

In fact it could have been so different for us. If my goal hadn't been disallowed for offside there's no telling what we might have done.

We knew that it was very important for us to score the first goal and we thought we'd done it when my 26th minute shot beat French 'keeper Ettori.

The decision must have been marginal. I certainly thought it was a good one because as soon as the ball crossed the line I was running back up the field getting ready for the restart.

I know we eventually lost by three clear goals, but going ahead would have given us the edge and put us in the driving seat.

It would have put pressure on the French. The onus would have been on them to come out and attack us and when that happens there's always a

chance of hitting them on the break.

Even after Alain Giresse scored their first in the 34th minute we still thought we had a chance.

The killer was their second goal just after half-time. That put the French in the driving seat and gave us the almost impossible job of scoring three goals to go through.

From then on we were a very tired team. We had to run and chase the ball and that's a very difficult job in that unbearable heat.

The French began to look a very good side after Rocheteau had scored their second, but I know from experience it's easy to play when your team is two goals up.

When the final whistle went I was very disappointed. Even though we've enjoyed a brilliant tournament no-one likes to lose.

No-one gave us a chance when we arrived in Spain three weeks ago, but we proved them wrong by playing in five of a possible seven games.

It's incredible to think that we finished just one game away from a place in the World Cup Final.

Our pre-World Cup results weren't very good and everyone thought we'd flop miserably in Spain. Well, we've laid those critics to rest.

I'M PROUD OF THEM ALL SAYS BILLY BINGHAM

MANAGER Billy Bingham watched his side's brave demise at the hands of France and tipped the victors to go all the way to the Final.

He said: "To be beaten by France was no dishonour because they are a beautiful team — the second best in the tournament after Brazil — and they proved it against us."

Of his own players, Billy was full of praise:

"For a country the size of ours and with such a small number of players to choose from, it's a tremendous achievement to get this far.

"I can't praise highly enough the effort, organisation and fitness of the players.

"If we could have held out until 15 minutes into the second half I thought they might be disrupted, but they scored a brilliant goal before half-time so I had to throw more people forward.

"When you do that you play into their hands because they are a tremendous team on the counter-attack but my lads still pushed forward. They would not lay down and I was proud of them all."

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FRONT PAGE: West German
skipper Karl-Heinz Rummenigge
goes past his England
counterpart Mick Mills during
their World Cup Finals Second
Round clash.

BILLY'S TEAM

NORTHERN Ireland are out of the World Cup — but they take with them the admiration of footballers and football fans throughout the world.

Billy Bingham's team of fighters brought their own special brand of pride and determination to the Finals — and a fire that no one had reckoned with.

The pundits gave them no chance — dark horses Yugoslavia and host nation Spain would prove too strong for them in Group Five, they said.

But Billy and his men had different ideas. No one who saw it will forget their 1-0 win over Spain when they played much of the game with ten men.

They proved that playing as a team can overcome individual brilliance if it isn't harnessed in the right way. And they proved that they have outstanding individuals of their own.

Gerry Armstrong had a great tournament. His direct approach and ability to run past defenders made it difficult to imagine that he

spent a good deal of last season on the sub's bench at Watford.

And David McCreery, who I gather is interested in returning from America to play in England again, must have interested quite a few English managers with the way he played. He's the sort of player who can do a good job anywhere — whether it be at full-back or in midfield.

But the real strength of the Irish performances was their teamwork. When they had the ball they used it sensibly and put the emphasis on possession. When they didn't have the ball they worked hard and tackled back.

Northern Ireland's World Cup was all about discipline — and Billy Bingham must take great credit for the way he instilled it into his side.

The team got further than it would have done if it had tried to play a more adventurous attacking style of football. As it was, they did better than anyone expected — including themselves if they are honest.

WITH OUR HELD HIGH

BY MARTIN O'NEILL

We never doubted our own ability. We knew that we had a chance of becoming the surprise team of the tournament.

It's what happens on the night that counts. If you get the bounce of the ball and that little bit of luck you can beat the best.

But we also knew that if we didn't play to World Cup standards we could get murdered. That didn't happen because we fought with tremendous spirit.

I'm the proud owner of two European Cup winners medals with Nottingham Forest, but leading Northern Ireland has to be one of the highlights of my career.

Our World Cup campaign has been filled with marvellous moments, but the highlight has to be the night we became the first team to topple the host nation, Spain.

OF FIGHTERS

In the end they were decisively beaten 4-1 by the French in a game they needed to win to reach the Semi-Finals, but there was no shame.

The result flattered a French side which on the day maybe looked a little better than it really is.

It was a good game to watch, although I felt defeat was always on the cards once the Irish conceded a second. They had their moments but the Irish are not a free-scoring side.

By the time you read this column you will know if England qualified for a Semi-Final match against France. Having already beaten them it would make an intriguing clash.

I felt we beat them easily in Bilbao. They didn't cause us that many problems in our 3-1 victory. But England must put that game out of their minds if they are to meet the French again. A second meeting would be completely different.

I still feel we could get the right



The beginning of Ireland's demise. Alain Giresse of France (far right) fires the first of his two goals in the 34th minute. He scored his second after 80 minutes as France ran out 4-1 winners and the Irish bravely bowed out of the competition.

Everything was against us that evening. There were 60,000 hostile fans screaming abuse at us and yet we proved our mettle with a tremendous team performance.

Gerry Armstrong's goal – the only one of the game – was just reward. We deserved to win and finish top of our group.

We also gave a good account of ourselves in the opening

Group Five match against Yugoslavia. I regard them as one of the top teams in Europe and to draw 0-0 was no mean achievement.

And we showed our fighting qualities when we went behind for the first time in the tournament against the highly-rated Austrians in our opening game in the second phase.

NORTHERN Ireland – the Cinderella team of the World Cup Finals – have finally returned from the ball. But it was with their heads held high that they flew back home from Spain. The dream ended at the hands of France in their fifth game of the Finals and 'Match Weekly' spoke to Irish skipper Martin O'Neill and England's Kevin Keegan minutes after the final whistle to seek their exclusive views.

Although we took the lead in that game we soon found ourselves 2-1 down after Hintermaier's goal.

Our battling spirit pulled us through and Burnley striker Billy Hamilton scored his second goal of the game to give us a 2-2 result.

Seeing Billy score two goals gave me tremendous pleasure. He hadn't scored for his country in 15 months before that game. He does an awful lot of work up front and it often goes unnoticed.

I haven't had time to think about the future or the forthcoming European Championships, but I'm sure our showing in the World Cup Finals will give us tremendous confidence.

We're in a tough group alongside West Germany, Austria, Albania and Turkey, but I'm sure none of them will be relishing the prospect of playing us.

No mention of our World Cup Finals campaign would be complete without praise for the fabulous support we've received from our fans.

I've heard stories that some supporters returned home to get more cash and then flew back to cheer us on – that's terrific and shows what true fans they are.

Well done to you. I'm sure we've sent you home happy and proud!

● Martin O'Neill was talking to Anthony Hawkswell.



● Kevin Keegan was talking to Melvyn Bagnall.

STRIKER Billy Hamilton, whose two goals against Austria served to add another incredible chapter to the Northern Ireland World Cup fairy story, admits: "It's unbelievable."

"After knocking around in the Third Division with Burnley for the last two seasons, scoring two goals in the Quarter-Finals of the World Cup is unreal!"

The Irish desperately needed a result against Austria in their Second Round opener to keep their World Cup hopes alive.

And Billy provided the perfect start when he put his side ahead after 27 minutes with a superb headed goal following a great run and cross from team-mate Gerry Armstrong.

Austria equalised through a neat deflection from Bruno Pezzey and went into a 2-1 lead through substitute Reinhold Hintermaier.

But it was that man Hamilton again, 16 minutes from time, who restored the status quo and brought the Irish fans to their feet.

So it was a night of elation, then disaster and finally relief for the Irish team whose World Cup efforts captivated the world.

Gerry Armstrong was outstanding and Billy Hamilton's two goals made him a national hero too.

It had been 15 months since he had hit the net in an international and he says:

"It was a tremendous relief. When you go a long time without finding the net it seems it could go on forever."

"I doubled my international tally in one night. It might not be much but it was a start!"

Ireland's second goal came when the ball bounced clear in the Austrian box...

"Jimmy Nicholl did brilliantly to get to the ball before the goalkeeper and send in a cross which stranded their defence."

"I tried to head it down to the bottom corner and fortunately it bounced over the foot of the defender on the line."

"I'd have been slaughtered by the rest of the lads had I missed, but it was one of those chances that gives strikers nightmares because there was so much time to think about it."

The result meant that N. Ireland needed victory over strong outsiders France to clinch a place in the Semi-Finals. It wasn't to be, but says Billy:

"Whatever happened in that game we knew what we had achieved in getting to that stage was phenomenal - magnificent."

"We had gone four games unbeaten and we were still in there fighting and it made the mind boggle."

"We knew it was something no-one could ever take away from us."

Billy's only problem out in Spain was having to hunt far and wide for the Spanish version of 'Interflora' after being forced to spend his fourth wedding anniversary away from his wife Isobel.

"It's the first anniversary we haven't spent together but Isobel was great about it."

"She said that Northern Ireland being in the World Cup Quarter-Finals was the only excuse she would accept for me missing our anniversary!"



Northern Ireland hero Billy Hamilton re-lives his finest international hour...

JUST UNREAL SAYS HERO BILLY



Above: Goal! Billy Hamilton gets his head to the ball and Northern Ireland are 1-0 up against Austria.

Left: the cross comes in from Gerry Armstrong following a great run from the Watford striker.

Top: The Burnley star sets off on his victory lap.

'I WANTED TO PLAY IN ENGLAND'

ZBIGNIEW Boniek — one of the biggest stars of the World Cup Finals — could have been lining up for an English club next season.

In an exclusive interview with 'Match Weekly', the Polish midfield maestro revealed:

"I would have loved to play for Manchester United or Liverpool or Tottenham or any of your top clubs for that matter.

"But none of the English clubs seemed interested in me.

"Perhaps it was because of the Polish Football Association rules but, as far as I know, there were no enquiries from English clubs."

Under Polish football rules no player under the age of 29 can leave the country to play for a foreign club.

But such is the respect that his country has for him, it was agreed that Boniek could move to Juventus.

He cost £1 million — the highest fee ever paid for a player from behind the Iron Curtain.

Boniek, who scored all the goals in Poland's 3-0 victory over the much-fancied Belgians in the second phase of the World Cup Finals, signed for the Italian giants before the start of the competition.

He says: "Juventus made me a good offer and, while joining them will in no way harm my career, I would have come to England for less money — especially if it was to the right club.

"I think that playing in England would have made me an even better player."

And the club Boniek would really have loved to join is Manchester United.

United fans will remember the time Widzew Lodz — and Boniek in particular — visited Old Trafford in the UEFA Cup two seasons ago.

The game ended in a 2-1 victory for the Poles and it was one of those special Boniek thunderbolts that won them the game.

Says Boniek: "Manchester United are my favourite team outside Poland.

"I fell in love with their ground when I played against them for Widzew Lodz.

"It's the best stadium I have ever played in!"

And Boniek says: "I admire English football very much. Your game is stronger than ours at club level and the proof is that the European Cup has been in England for so many years."

England would have benefited from a player of Boniek's class in the League — especially after the loss of Argentinian Osvaldo Ardiles.

WORLD EXCLUSIVE

His performances during the World Cup Finals even overshadowed the arrival of Argentinian 'wonder-boy' Diego Maradona — a £4 million signing for Barcelona.

And the question asked in all the Spanish newspapers after Boniek hit his hat-trick against Belgium was:

"If Maradona is worth eight million dollars then how much more is Boniek worth?"

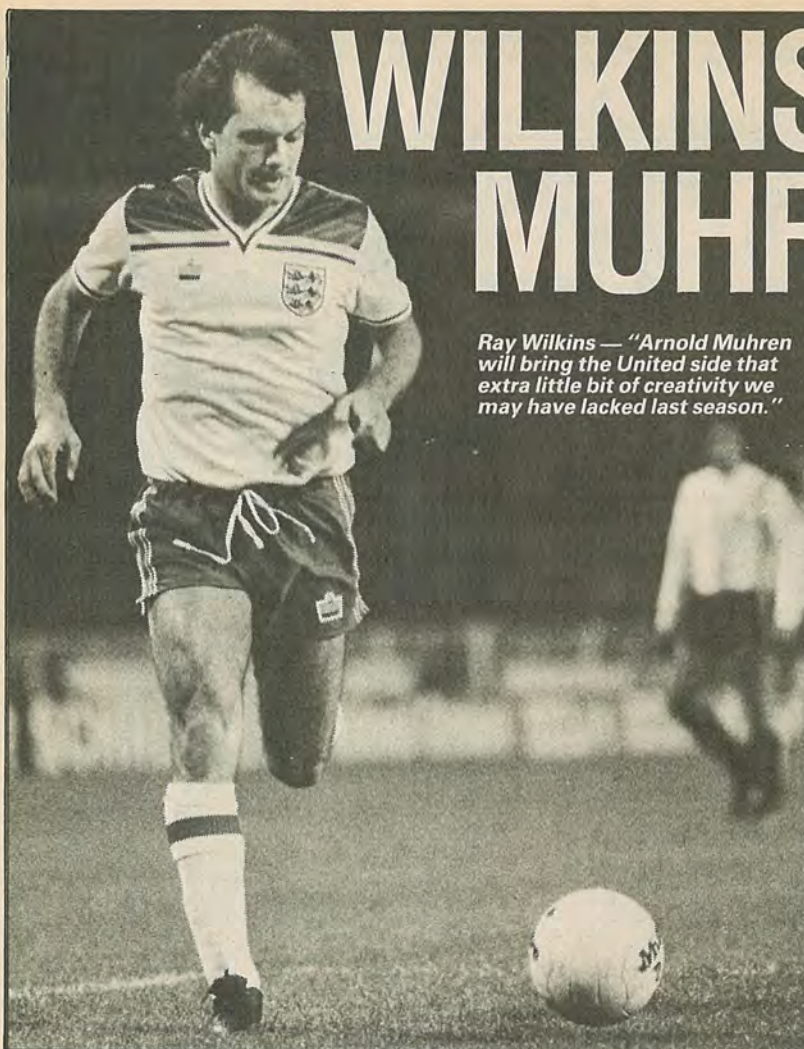
Boniek, however, is quite unassuming and fights shy of comparisons: "Maradona is still the best player in the world for me.

"There was a lot of pressure on him in the World Cup Finals, but I think the Spanish fans will see the best of him when he lines up for Barcelona next season."

Although classified as a midfielder, Boniek likes to move forward at every opportunity to join the attack — a ploy that has seen him score a hatful of goals at both club and international level. It's a policy he intends to continue.

Below: Zbigniew Boniek on the ball (left) in action against Cameroon.





WILKINS APPLAUDS MUHREN SIGNING

Ray Wilkins — "Arnold Muhren will bring the United side that extra little bit of creativity we may have lacked last season."

ENGLAND World Cup star Ray Wilkins has scotched suggestions that he may be on his way from Old Trafford following the arrival of Dutch international midfielder Arnold Muhren.

Even before Muhren signed for Manchester United, there was speculation that Wilkins might be seeking a move back to London.

But Ray told 'Match Weekly': "Any rumours about my departure from the club are totally unjustified."

"I'll be there at the start of the season to help United win the League Championship — a trophy I feel is very overdue in the city."

The signing of Muhren on a free transfer from Ipswich means that United now possess one of the strongest midfield line-ups in the country.

And Ray says: "I think we will compete better next

season. Arnold will give us that extra little bit of creativity we may have lacked last season."

"He's such a good player and I think his style of play will fit in perfectly at Old Trafford."

"He could be just the player we have been looking for to help us win the Championship."

"He's such a proven goalscorer as well and so respected by his fellow professionals."

"I'm glad he will be playing with us instead of against us for a change."

"His arrival certainly won't harm my game. If anything, it will help it."

■ **ARGENTINIAN** star Diego Maradona could make his debut for Barcelona against Manchester United.

The two clubs will be joined by Cologne of West Germany and Brazil's Atletico Mineiros to compete for the Juan Gamper trophy in Barcelona on August 24 and 25.

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'KEEPER THOMAS ATTRACTS BID

CAMEROON goalkeeper Thomas N'Kono has attracted the interests of a number of European clubs.

"I have received one definite offer," admits the 27-year-old.

"Nothing has been fixed but I certainly intend to become a professional if the terms are right."

Representatives of both West German club Stuttgart and Spanish giants Barcelona visited the Cameroon headquarters during the early stages of the Finals.

And interest has also been shown in Gregoire M'Bida, Teophile Abega, Jacques N'Guea and Emmanuel Kunde, whose explosive shooting almost led to

the downfall of Poland.

Cameroon's Roger Milla has already made his name in Europe playing for French club Bastia and they are known to be interested in signing his international striking partner M'Bida.

■ **TWENTY**-one-year-old Argentinian superstar Diego Maradona is seldom off the television screen in Spain.

During a half-time break in one World Cup match, Maradona appeared three times — helping advertise a different product on each occasion!

He will earn a reputed £250,000 from his 'outside interest' contracts.

IRISH ARE SO THIRSTY

NORTHERN Ireland's players went through 60 pints of water between them to combat dehydration before and during their Group Five game with Yugoslavia.

■ **AUSTRIAN** star Herbert Prohaska will be linking up with Brazil's Falcão at Roma next season after being transferred from Inter-Milan for £350,000.

■ **ALAN** Rough and Asa Hartford became members of Scotland's exclusive 'fifty club' when they lined up against Brazil — both players winning their fiftieth caps.

■ **DUTCH** Under-21 international Rudi Kaiser has joined French club Nice for £50,000 after playing just 14 First Division games for Coventry last season.

Tony goes gunning for his ex-bosses

ARSENAL'S new striker Tony Woodcock will be aiming next season to gun down teams managed by two of the men who had a big influence on his career.

One is Watford's Graham Taylor, and the other Nottingham Forest's Brian Clough who sold him to Cologne three years ago.

"I played under Graham at Lincoln when I went there on loan because I wasn't able to get a first team game at Nottingham Forest," explains the England forward.

"He was fabulous to work for and was instrumental in giving me back my confidence at a time when it was at rock bottom."

"I would have signed for him if there hadn't been a mix-up."

Referring to Brian Clough, Tony adds: "There's no doubt about it, things were a bit rough for me at first under Cloughie, but, despite that, I know full well I wouldn't be where I am today without him."

European aim for Honduras hopefuls

TWENTY-four-year-old Honduras striker Porfirio Betancourt and his team-mate Tony Costly are hoping their performances during the World Cup Finals will persuade a European team to step in for their services.

America-based Betancourt is studying business management at Indiana University and was voted top player in American college soccer last season.

And Costly says: "I think we have proved that we are not without talent."

"It would be marvellous to get the chance to play full-time soccer in Europe."



Gary meets his match

GARY Owen, the West Brom and England Under-21 midfield player, recently met his match in the shape of his bride, Lindsey. The couple were married in the Cheshire town of Lymm.

IRISH FAN FORKS OUT

SUPERFAN Ivor Donaldson spent over £4,000 to watch his team — Northern Ireland — compete in Spain.

Ivor, who emigrated to Australia 21 years ago, set off on an 11-week tour of Europe with everything geared to Northern Ireland's Group Five matches.

"I was football-daft when I lived in Belfast and I couldn't miss this chance of a lifetime," he said.

Fittest ref

SCOTLAND'S Bob Valentine, who handled the Group Two match between West Germany and Austria on June 25, is the fittest referee in the Finals.

A 43-year-old compositor on a Dundee newspaper, Bob beat his 39 colleagues in a 'Cooper Test' during the training get-together.

The tests consisted of a series of runs over increasing distances with pulse rates recorded in between.

THE ART OF SCORING

THE three leading goal-scorers at the end of the Finals will each receive a signed lithograph of Salvador Dali's painting 'Goal' — courtesy of Feliz Romero Vicente, a former governor of Barcelona.

Same again, says Ron

WHEN England manager Ron Greenwood announced an unchanged side for the first round match against Czechoslovakia, it was only the third time in his managerial reign that he had done so.

The last time it happened was prior to a 3-0 victory over Bulgaria three years ago.

DOG TAGGED

NO-ONE was allowed into Alicante's Rico Perez stadium without his identity card... not even the stadium guard dog Bobi!

Like the ground's human personnel, Bobi's computerised identity card — complete with colour photograph — constantly hung from his neck.

That really takes the dog biscuit!

Match Chat

Compiled by Melvyn Beck

AFRICA — THE NEW POWER

COVENTRY City chairman Jimmy Hill reckons Africa could become another South America in world football terms.

After Algeria's shock win over West Germany, the television personality commented:

"There has always been a lot of potential in some of the smaller footballing nations."

"They have always had athleticism and skill, but in the past they have lacked confidence and organisation."

"But now they are becoming more sophisticated in their approach and they are letting their skill win matches."

"I can see countries like Africa becoming as big a force as South America in the future."

■ IPSWICH defender Mick Mills described leading England out as skipper against France as the "proudest moment of my career."

When you've got to go...

THE intense heat out in Spain has meant that players selected for drug tests after matches have been having trouble giving urine samples because they are so dehydrated.

When Northern Ireland's John O'Neill was selected after the game with Yugoslavia, his first sample was insufficient — even though he didn't play in the match.

He drank a litre of water but, in the end, it was a few gulps of champagne that did the trick.

■ PAUL Mariner's cheeky claim

BELLOUMI IN DEMAND

LAKHDAR Belloumi — the inspiration behind Algeria's shock 2-1 first round victory over West Germany — may be a target for several European clubs when the Finals are over.

He caused the panic in the German defence which led to Algeria's first goal and scored the second himself.

He earned plenty of admirers watching from the stands and could command a big fee if tempted to move.

to be credited with England's second goal against the Czechs fell on stony ground.

The Ipswich striker and 'Match' columnist provided the hard hit cross-shot which was turned into the net by Czech defender Barmos, but it was listed as own goal.

Paul had scored on each of his five previous England appearances, equalling the record of Jimmy Greaves.

But Tommy Lawton's record of six goals in six successive appearances remains intact.



England's Bryan Robson takes a flier as Germany's Hans-Peter Briegel slides in. "Briegel's rated as one of the best markers in the world and I think he lived up to that reputation," says Paul.

'Match' is the magazine with the big name columnists! Top England striker Paul Mariner gives his exclusive verdict.

ENGLAND are a team feared once again in world soccer.

After the goalless draw with West Germany, we have no reason to worry about anybody.

It was a match we ought to have won and deserved to win, yet we were criticised back home for a disappointing, dour display.

But the Germans, the reigning European Champions, paid us the highest compliment by adopting a defensive, negative attitude because they were frightened of us.

English football is appreciated and respected far more on the Continent than at home and it's about time that the fans in England began to realise that our League is still regarded as one of the best in the world.

Just a few months ago, we were being written off as World Cup no-hoper's. Some people believed we were going to Spain simply to make up the numbers.

At that stage, a goalless draw with West Germany would have been regarded as a considerable achievement.

But the players always thought that we had the ability to restore the

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DIRECT FROM SPAIN

PAUL MARINER



country's pride in the national team. And that was the attitude of the players before the titanic clash with Germany.

We all take great pride in representing our country, and we wanted to make the people back home proud to be English.

And I feel we did that even though we didn't achieve the result we deserved.

To restrict the European Champions to a couple of chances in 90 minutes of football is no mean achievement.

Such was our domination in defence that Phil Thompson regarded the match as his easiest of the season!

We were solid at the back and we covered well in midfield without managing to penetrate the strong German defensive system.

The German approach did surprise us in view of the fact that we had scored more goals in the first phase. It could have proved vital in a count-back situation.

But we suspected they would apply a safety first approach when they left out young Pierre Littbarski because he had been one of their best attacking players in the opening round.

From my own personal point of view, it was probably my hardest international in terms of trying to wrinkle out space and chances.

My permanent shadow, Hans-Peter Briegel, is rated as one of the best markers in the world, and I think he lived up to that reputation.

But I was pleased with my performance against him, particularly late in the match when he seemed to run out of steam.

Chances were few and far between, but we caused them problems from set pieces, especially in the first half.

I couldn't see them scoring even though Karl-Heinz Rummenigge caused a few heart palpitations with that late effort against the crossbar.

It would have been a travesty of justice had that gone in because during the match, there only looked to be one team capable of winning and that was us.

That result extended our unbeaten run to ten matches and that sequence alone should act as a great boost for English football.

The performance of Northern Ireland in qualifying for the second round was greeted with sheer delight in the England camp.

They were being labelled as a lazy team with a carefree attitude, but they showed the Spanish they have massive reserves of guts and determination.

They have a tremendous team spirit which is carried onto the pitch

and they have achieved more than they could have possibly hoped for on their arrival.

Our headquarters in Madrid for the second round was restrictive in every sense of the word.

It was in the nature of a training camp some thirty miles from Madrid with massive security.

We were allowed no freedom but, as professionals, we fully understood that, having reached the second round, we had to accept seclusion.

From my point of view, I had lost my personal cocktail shaker.

I adopted Joe in Bilbao where he produced some really unusual

cocktails with the local drink, Sangria. So I was glad to see him back!

● Paul Mariner was talking to Melvyn Beck.

RUNNING SCARED!

WEST GERMANS PAY ENGLAND THE HIGHEST COMPLIMENT



'Match' columnist Paul Mariner and West German sweeper Uli Stielike take a tumble during the big clash at the Bernabeu stadium.

**WŁODZIMIERZ
SMOLAREK**
Poland

**RENE
NDJEYA**
Cameroon



match
WEEKLY

WHEN IRISH EYES ARE SMILING



'Match' captures the best of the action from N. Ireland's opening Second Round match against Austria — a 2-2 draw which took their unbeaten run in the Finals to four games.

Above: Northern Ireland keeper Jim Platt can only look in horror as a shot from Reinhold Hintermaier (10) flies into the net and Austria are 2-1 ahead.

1 World Cup shaker! Northern Ireland's two goal hero Billy Hamilton leaps between Bruno Pezzey (5) and Anton Pichler to give his side the lead... 2 Austrian keeper Friedrich Koncilia dives in vain but the ball is bound for the back of the net... 3 Billy is on his glory run and Martin O'Neill joins the celebrations.

England midfielder Graham Rix reveals how he beat his Arsenal blues to go for gold in the World Cup Finals.

THIRST FOR GLORY!



Graham Rix in determined action for England against Czechoslovakia's Petar Janecka: "My big ambition is to make one of the midfield roles my own for some time to come."

MIDWAY through last season, Arsenal's Graham Rix felt his game had fallen to pieces.

He wanted to get away from the London club and start to re-build his career in new surroundings.

But in the space of a few months, he emerged from his period of dejection to be one of England's creative forces in the opening phase of the World Cup Finals.

"I wanted to get away from Arsenal, that's true," says 24-year-old Graham, who took over Trevor Brooking's responsible midfield Spain.

"But I had a long talk with Arsenal and England coach Don Howe and decided to buckle down and try to recapture my form.

"I worked very hard at it and my reward couldn't have been bigger than being in Spain and playing in the World Cup Finals.

"Now my big ambition is to make one of the midfield roles my own for some time to come.

"I know that will be hard with the competition around right now. Keeping out players like Trevor Brooking and Glenn Hoddle will take some doing."

Graham's decision to fight his way back to the top impressed England manager Ron Greenwood, and a brilliant second half display in the 2-0 win over Holland in May booked his passage to Spain.

"He seemed to bounce back from being a very skilful midfielder player that lacked a little fight to a player who could not have enough of the ball and one full of confidence," says the England manager.

Recalling that Wembley night in May, Graham says: "I knew then that it was my last chance to really impress the boss, so I decided to go out that evening and give it everything I had.

"It worked and since then my confidence at international level has grown." He revelled in

Hard-working Graham aims for a regular England spot

the responsibility given to him in the first round.

"It's an honour when your country thinks that you are the man to fill a particular role," he says.

"That's what I think when I'm going out to play for England, and I think it gives me the confidence to do well.

"I think I have proved what I can do and my confidence couldn't be any higher.

"It's something I have suffered with at times, a lack of confidence or the confidence to do something different, but I've learned at this level of football you must be prepared to do something different if you are to do well."

If Graham decides to stay with Arsenal when his contract expires at the end of this month, then he will be lining up in midfield with Yugoslavia's Vladimir Petrovic.

The former Red Star skipper is delighted at the prospect of playing in the First Division next season with the big London club.

"I am very happy to go to Arsenal. I think English football is wonderful and it's marvellous for me," he says.

Although Yugoslavia were eliminated from the World Cup Finals in the Group headed by Northern Ireland, many observers felt

Petrovic was their outstanding player.

Arsenal are looking for him to provide the right kind of service from midfield for Alan Sunderland and England's Tony Woodcock.

And a Yugoslavian soccer journalist out in Spain said:

"I know we are always losing our top players, but to lose Petrovic is a great blow. He is a real match winner."

The 26-year-old, who is very much in the same kind of mould as England's Steve Coppell, is nicknamed 'The Pigeon' in Yugoslavia because he has the ability to fly away from defenders!

He is a natural outside right with a good shot, plenty of skill in both feet and a good turn of pace.

He's a natural crosser of the ball and a consistent goalscorer — finishing last season as the top scorer for his club.

And while he may not be a right-sided Liam Brady, Arsenal fans are sure to appreciate his presence at Highbury next season.

● 'Match' is the best magazine for the inside stories on the stars of the World Cup.

IRISH ACE SEEKS RETURN

Anthony Hawkswell talks to David McCreery . . . the Irishman who wants to quit America.

Below: David McCreery — "I hope I've persuaded a manager in England that I'm worth signing."

NORTHERN Ireland's World Cup hero David McCreery wants to come home.

The tenacious midfielder — a key man in his country's success in Spain — is ready to return to English football after nearly two years in the States.

His contract with North American Soccer League side Tulsa Roughnecks finishes in October and David is hoping the club don't take up their option to renew.

"I'd like to come home. I'm not enjoying life with Tulsa as much as I used to," confesses the former Manchester United and Queen's Park Rangers star.

"My wife misses England and would like to come back," adds David, who has kept his house near Ascot racecourse in the hope of returning one day.

"I don't regret going to America. It had always been an ambition of mine to play there and I believe the experience has been good for me.

"Obviously I'd like to play in the First Division again, but I don't really mind where I go as long as I can do a job for someone."

Moved

David moved across the Atlantic following the appointment of Terry Venables as manager of Queen's Park Rangers.

He explains: "The new manager didn't fancy my style and it was obvious I'd be on my way. I did have talks with Notts County but the idea of going to America really appealed to me."

David became one of the first Transatlantic internationals — flying over from America to take part in Northern Ireland's World Cup qualifiers.

"I had a clause in my contract which released me for our World Cup games," says David: "And although the travelling physically drained me, it's all been worthwhile."

David made his Northern Ireland debut in May 1976 against Scotland and has since picked up 43 caps for his country.

And his performances in Ireland's Group Five matches earned 'Wee Dee' — as he's known to his team-mates — rave notices.

In their opening match against the crack Yugoslavs, David completely blotted out Arsenal's new signing, midfielder Vladimir Petrovic.

"I was quite pleased with my performance in that game because I hadn't played a competitive match for over a month."

"While the players in England had just finished their campaign, I was starting pre-season training in America."



"But we had two hard weeks of training in Brighton prior to the Finals and that helped get me to peak fitness."

"It's very difficult to judge a player on just one performance, but I believe Petrovic could be quite an asset to the Arsenal team next season."

"He's very quick and skilful on the ball and spots a goalscoring opportunity very early. The only problem he will have is the language — he can't speak English."

"In our first game against Yugoslavia, we showed that we weren't in Spain just for the ride. We held them to a 0-0 draw when we could have perhaps sneaked a win."

One of the big problems for British players out in Spain has been the scorching heat, but that's something that hasn't affected 24-year-old David.

"Luckily, I'm used to playing in such heat. At Tulsa we regularly play with temperatures in the 80's."

'Super-sub'

Belfast-born David started his League career at Old Trafford, where he became Manchester United's own version of a 'super sub'. Of his 75 League appearances for the club, 29 were as substitute.

He was also 12th man for United's 1976 and 1977 FA Cup Final teams — coming on for Gordon Hill on both occasions.

"Even though I was in and out of the side, I thoroughly enjoyed my days at United and was sad to leave. I picked up FA Cup winners' and runners-up medals and there are a lot of players who would love to achieve that."

The departure of Tommy Docherty from United signalled the beginning of the end of David's career at Old Trafford.

And it was 'The Doc' who splashed out £200,000 in August 1979 to take him to his new club, QPR.

"I've always got on very well with Tommy Docherty and we still keep in touch. I regard him as a friend," said David.

"I don't feel I've got anything to prove if I come back to the Football League. I know I'm capable of playing at the highest level."

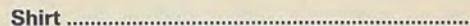
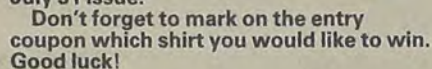
"I just hope that my performances in the World Cup have persuaded a manager that I'm worth signing. I'd jump at the chance of coming back to England."

'Match' is the first magazine with the inside stories from the World Cup Finals!

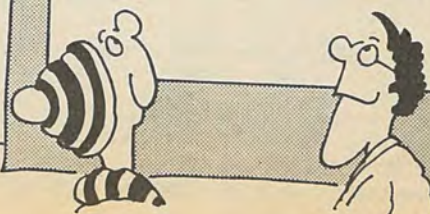
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BE A WINNER WITH





Northern Ireland's two main rivals for the goalkeeping jersey — Jim Platt (left) and Pat Jennings. Jim got his chance in the crucial Second Round match against Austria.

Spanish notebook

TON-UP GERRY

IN the midst of the all-night party that followed Northern Ireland's qualification for the second phase, one fact went almost unnoticed until they arrived in Madrid.

It was that Gerry Armstrong's winner against Spain was the 100th goal of the World Cup Finals.

Says Gerry: "It was a fantastic feeling when I scored and to bring up the ton makes it just a bit more special."

Northern Ireland couldn't fail to return home with the World Cup.

One of their favourite souvenirs is a porcelain replica of the trophy!

Czech manager Josef Venglos was virtually resigned to defeat at the hands of England before the first round game kicked off.

"England will win the group — of that there can be no doubt," he said prior to England's 2-0 victory over his team.

Carlos Alberto, Brazilian coach to the surprisingly talented Kuwait team, went even further: "Not only will England win the group, but they will do very well in the rest of the competition."

Yugoslavia's players spent the half-time interval during their match with hosts Spain "sitting on a staircase" outside their dressing room.

It wasn't a new tactic — simply that the players complained of a terrible smell in their room.

"The room smelled as if hundreds of rotten eggs had been dropped inside," said goalkeeper Dragan Pantelic.

Spain won the game 2-1 thanks to a twice taken penalty.

Kuwait returned home minus their camel mascot.

They presented him to Madrid zoo and now the zookeepers are striving to meet the request that he be given food fit for a sheikh.

The camel, promptly christened Kuwait at the zoo, once starred in a film with Anthony Quinn!

Platt's peace talks earn a recall

MIDDLESBROUGH goalkeeper Jim Platt is relieved he buried the hatchet with the Northern Ireland team after originally threatening to quit.

Jim, the permanent understudy to Pat Jennings, was reported to have stated that he would never play for Ireland again under manager Billy Bingham.

He was subsequently dropped from the subs bench for the match against Spain.

But, after a peace meeting with Northern Ireland officials, he settled his differences just in time to replace Jennings against Austria.

"I never said at any time that I did not want to play for Northern Ireland and I am happy to have sorted it out," says Jim.

"It has worked out well in the end and I am very happy. There was a lot of good sense spoken to me by a lot of nice people and I am glad they came forward to help me."

Following the 2-2 draw with Austria, BBC panellist Bobby Charlton described Northern Ireland's World Cup performance as the greatest by a British team since England lifted the trophy in 1966.

FIRST ROUND FACTS

- One hundred goals were scored in the 36 matches — an average of 2.77 goals per game.
- Austrian goalkeeper Freddie Koncilia went the longest of any goalkeeper without conceding a goal — 191 minutes.
- Fifty six players were booked from 21 of the 24 competing teams. Only Russia, Brazil and New Zealand — all competing in Group Six — ended the first round without disciplinary measures against them.
- Three players were sent off — Ladislav Vizek (Czechoslovakia), Gilberto Yearwood (Honduras), and Mai Donaghy (Northern Ireland).

Richard Brown, the Putney-born doorman at Northern Ireland's Valencia hotel, is Fulham mad.

And when club chairman Ernie Clay read of it he sent him a package of Fulham souvenirs through the post.

Bordeaux bound

FRENCH club Bordeaux, who recently tried to sign England and Liverpool midfielder player Terry McDermott, have now turned their attentions to Northern Ireland winger Noel Brotherston.

But their attempts to spy on the Blackburn forward have not been very successful with Noel managing only brief appearances as substitute against Honduras and Austria.

French star Alain Giresse, a potential team-mate of Noel, says: "We are very surprised the Irish have not been using him in the tournament — but I know Bordeaux are still quite keen."



Friendly rivals — Ray Clemence (left) and Peter Shilton during an England training session, and (right) Joe Corrigan, who ruptured a cartilage during training and was forced to return home.

CLEMENCE WARNS SHILTON:

TOTTENHAM goalkeeper Ray Clemence has warned England rival Peter Shilton that the battle for the number one spot is far from over.

Although Forest 'keeper Peter got the nod in Spain, Ray is aiming to depose him before next season's European Championship qualifying matches.

"I'm looking forward to the European Championships and the battle to win back my England place as quickly as possible," says Ray, who figured in most of the World Cup qualifying games.

"You can't take your place for granted in the England team.

"At the moment, Peter is the top man, but he knows that he has to keep playing well if he's to keep his place because I'm waiting for the chance."

Ray hotly refutes suggestions that his move to Tottenham from Liverpool last season cost him his place in the Finals.

"I think it's just a case of the manager believing Peter is the man for the job right now," he says.

"I had a wonderful season with Tottenham. Although we only ended up with the FA Cup for all our work, we still felt that it had been a great season for the club and the fans and I'm really looking forward to the new campaign.

"I suppose that myself, Peter and Joe Corrigan must start looking over our shoulders for the youngsters coming through.

"We can't go on forever, but I think that kind of pressure will see us playing better for our clubs because I think we all believe that we can do a good job for England for some time to come."

Ray is quick to stress that the rivalry for the England jersey is friendly.

'IT'S NOT FOR KEEPS'

SHILTON or Clemence? That was always the burning question as England arrived in Spain for the World Cup Finals.

Throughout his reign as England boss, Ron Greenwood had always alternated the two goalkeepers — as well as throwing in Joe Corrigan for the odd game.

But on the eve of England's opener against France, he finally made the decision everyone awaited . . . and Shilton was his choice. Here the two left on the sidelines talk about the rivalry for the number one spot.

"Whoever gets the goalkeeper's jersey is always congratulated by the other two as soon as they know," he explains.

"We have helped each other out over the years while working on our game in England training camps and we have built up a great sense of friendly rivalry."

But for Manchester City's Joe Corrigan, it's been a case of enduring a patient waiting game for the odd England chance.

"The other lads got a head start on me in the England set-up. I was too inconsistent at Manchester City for a long time and I had to work at my game very hard to improve it," he admits.

"While that was happening,

Peter and Ray were doing great things for their clubs and England.

"It's a game of patience if you want to play in goal for England. You have to turn in impressive performances for your club throughout the season.

"I was just happy to be part of the World Cup squad. It can't be bad being chosen as the best in England after such names as Peter Shilton and Ray Clemence.

"Our battle for the England job is a very friendly one. We feel the person that wins that battle is the best man for the job at the time.

"We always have a discussion after the game and analyse the performance of whoever played and that's very important.



"It means that as goalkeeper to goalkeeper, we can discuss what happened and what, if anything, can be improved.

"I like to think that is one of the reasons why England have the best goalkeepers in the world."

Both of England's shadow goalkeepers were impressed with the standard of the goalkeeping during the First Round.

"The 'keepers from the smaller countries like Algeria, Cameroon and Honduras were particularly impressive," says Ray.

"They have everything, including skill and technique, to play anywhere in the world."

Joe picked out Cameroon's Thomas N'Kono for special mention.

WORLD CUP MATCH FACTS

This is it . . . the best World Cup results service you'll find.

Our cut-out-and-keep results service gives you a complete guide to all the first week's action.

Full-time and half-time results, scorers and times of goals, team line-ups, attendances and referees — it's all here. And it's bang up-to-date.

Don't miss our comprehensive service each week in Match. Order your copy now!

SECOND PHASE Monday, June 28

Group A

Belgium (0) 0
Poland (2) 3 (Boniek 4, 26, 53)
Att: 20,000 (in Barcelona)
Belgium: Custers, Renquin, Milicamps, Meeuws, Plessers, Van Moer (sub. Van der Elst), Coeck, Vercauteren, Czerniatynski, Vandenbergh, Ceulemans.
Poland: Mlynarczyk, Dzuiba, Zmuda, Janas, Majewski, Kupciewicz (sub. Ciolek), Buncol, Matysik, Lato, Boniek, Smolarek.
Referee: L. Siles Calderon (Costa Rica)

Group D

France (1) 1 (Genghini 40)
Austria (0) 0
Att: 37,000 (in Madrid)
France: Ettori, Battiston, Janvion, Tresor, Bossis, Giresse, Genghini (sub. Girard), Tigana, Soler, Lacombe (sub. Rocheteau), Six.
Austria: Koncilia, Krauss, Obermayer, Pezzey, Degeorgi (sub. Baumeister), Hattenberger, Hintermaier, Jara (sub. Welzl), Schachner, Prohaska, Krankl.
Referee: K. Palotai (Hungary)

Tuesday, June 29

Group B

England (0) 0
West Germany (0) 0
Att: 75,000 (in Madrid)
England: Shilton, Mills, Thompson, Butcher, Sansom, Coppell, Wilkins, Francis (sub. Woodcock), Mariner, Robson, Rix.
West Germany: Schumacher, Kaltz, Forster K-H, Stielike, Forster B, Muller (sub. Fischer), Breitner, Dremmler, Briegel, Rummenigge, Reinders (sub. Littbarski).
Referee: A. Coelho (Brazil)

Group C

Italy (0) 2 (Tardelli 55, Cabrini 67)
Argentina (0) 1 (Passarella 83)
Att: 39,150 (in Barcelona)
Italy: Zoff, Gentile, Collovati, Scirea, Cabrini, Orioli (sub. Marini), Tardelli, Antognoni, Conti, Rossi (sub. Altobelli), Graziani.
Argentina: Fillol, Olguin, Passarella, Galvan, Tarantini, Ardiles, Gallego, Maradona, Bertoni, Diaz (sub. Calderon), Kempes (sub. Valencia).
Referee: N. Rainea (Rumania)
Sending Off: Gallego (Argentina)

Thursday, July 1 Group D

NORTHERN IRELAND (1) 2 (Hamilton 28, 74)
AUSTRIA (0) 2 (Pezzey 50, Hintermaier 68)
Att: 24,000 (in Madrid)
Northern Ireland: Platt, Nicholl J, Nicholl C, McClelland, Nelson, McCreery, O'Neill M, McIlroy, Armstrong, Hamilton, Whiteside (sub. Brotherton).
Austria: Koncilia, Krauss, Obermayer, Pezzey, Schachner, Prohaska, Pichler, Hagmayr (sub. Welzl), Baumeister, Pregesbauer (sub. Hintermaier), Jurtin.
Referee: A. Prokop (E. Germany)

Group A

Belgium (0) 0
RUSSIA (0) 1 (Oganesian 48)
Att: 25,000 (in Barcelona)
Belgium: Munaron, Renquin, Milicamps L, Meeuws, De Schrijver (sub. Milicamps M), Verheyen, Coeck, Vercauteren, Vandermissen, Vandenbergh, Ceulemans.
Russia: Dasaev, Borovsky, Chivadze, Baltacha, Demianenko, Bal (sub. Daraselia), Oganesian, Bessonov, Shengelia (sub. Rodionov), Gavrilov, Blokhin.
Referee: M. Vautrot (France)

Friday, July 2 Group B

Spain (0) 1 (Zamora 82)
WEST GERMANY (0) 2 (Littbarski 49, Fischer 75)
Att: 90,000 (in Madrid)
Spain: Arconada, Camacho, Gordillo, Alonso, Tendillo, Alesanco, Juanito (sub. Ufarte), Zamora, Urquiaga, Santillana, Quini (sub. Sanchez).
West Germany: Schumacher, Kaltz, Forster K-H, Stielike, Forster B, Breitner, Briegel, Dremmler, Littbarski, Fischer, Rummenigge (sub. Reinders).
Referee: P. Casarin (Italy)

Group C

BRAZIL (1) 3 (Zico 12, Serginho 67, Junior 74)
ARGENTINA (0) 1 (Diaz 89)
Att: 49,000 (in Barcelona)
Brazil: Waldir Peres, Leandro (sub. Edevaldo), Oscar, Luizinho, Junior, Cerezo, Falcao,
Argentina: Socrates, Serginho, Zico (sub. Batista), Eder, Tarantini, Ardiles, Galvan, Maradona, Bertoni (sub. Santamaria), Calderon, Kempes (sub. Diaz).
Referee: M. Rubio (Mexico)
Sending Off: Maradona (Argentina)

Sunday, July 4

Group D

NORTHERN IRELAND (0) 1 (Armstrong 75)
FRANCE (1) 4 (Giresse 34, 80, Rocheteau 47, 68)
Att: 30,000 (in Madrid)
Northern Ireland: Jennings, Nicholl J, Donaghy, Nicholl C, McClelland, McCreery (sub. O'Neill J), McIlroy, O'Neill M, Hamilton, Armstrong, Whiteside.
France: Ettori, Amoros, Tresor, Janvion, Bossis, Tigana, Giresse, Platini, Genghini, Soler (sub. Six), Rocheteau (sub. Couriol).
Referee: A. Jarguz (Poland)

Final Placings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	2	2	0	0	5	1	4
Austria	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
N. Ireland	2	0	1	1	3	6	1

Group A

POLAND (0) 0
RUSSIA (0) 0
Att: 25,000 (in Barcelona)
Poland: Mlynarczyk, Majewski, Janas, Smuda, Dzuiba, Buncol, Matysik, Kupciewicz (sub. Ciolek), Lato, Boniek, Smolarek.
Russia: Dasaev, Sulakvelidze, Chivadze, Baltacha, Demianenko, Gavrilov (sub. Daraselia), Shengelia (sub. Andreev), Bessonov, Blokhin, Borovsky, Oganesian.
Referee: B. Valentine (Scotland)

Final Placings

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	2	1	1	0	3	0	3
Russia	2	1	1	0	1	0	3
Belgium	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

LEADING SCORERS

4 — Boniek (Poland), Zico (Brazil), Rummenigge (West Germany).
3 — Armstrong (N. Ireland), Kiss (Hungary).



ENGLAND'S Kenny Sansom (left) and Bryan Robson combine to thwart West Germany's Manny Kaltz in their Second Round opener.



A 'Match Weekly' picture special capturing all the drama and excitement of World Cup action.

STOP THE ACTION

GET IN!

Argentinian goalkeeper Fillol (above) is stranded as Brazilian centre-forward Serginho powers his header home in the three-times World Cup winners' 3-1 Second Round victory over the holders.



GET DOWN!

Crunch! West Germany's Paul Breitner (above) feels the full force of a Bryan Robson tackle in England's 0-0 Second Round draw with the European Champions.

GET BACK!

Getting shirty! Argentina's Alberto Tarantini (above) gets to grips with the shirt of Italy's Alessandro Altobelli in the holders' 2-1 Second Round defeat.

GET OFF!

You're off! Diego Maradona's uneventful World Cup comes to a premature end (right) as he's shown the red card by the referee following a high tackle on Brazil's Batista in Argentina's 3-1 defeat.





Above: Tricky West German striker Pierre Littbarski fends off this challenge from England's Kenny Sansom.

Left: Good luck! England skipper Mick Mills shakes hands with his West German counterpart Karl-Heinz Rummenigge prior to the start of their crucial clash.

England and West Germany fought out a tense and tactical 0-0 draw in their opening game of the Second Round. 'Match' captures the best of the action from the clash of the giants.

NEIN



Above: West German's Karl Heinz Forster slides in to thwart England striker Trevor Francis. The Manchester City man was replaced by Tony Woodcock later in the game.

Left: It's that man Schumacher again — this time tipping over Steve Coppell's dangerous inswinging cross. Germany's Hans Peter Briegel and England's Martin



Above: So close! West German goalkeeper Harold Schumacher pulls off a marvellous save from a Bryan Robson header that had looked a certain goal.

Below: A heart-stopping moment for England as a shot from Germany's Rummenigge (out of picture) clatters off the bar with goalkeeper Peter Shilton beaten.

GOALS!

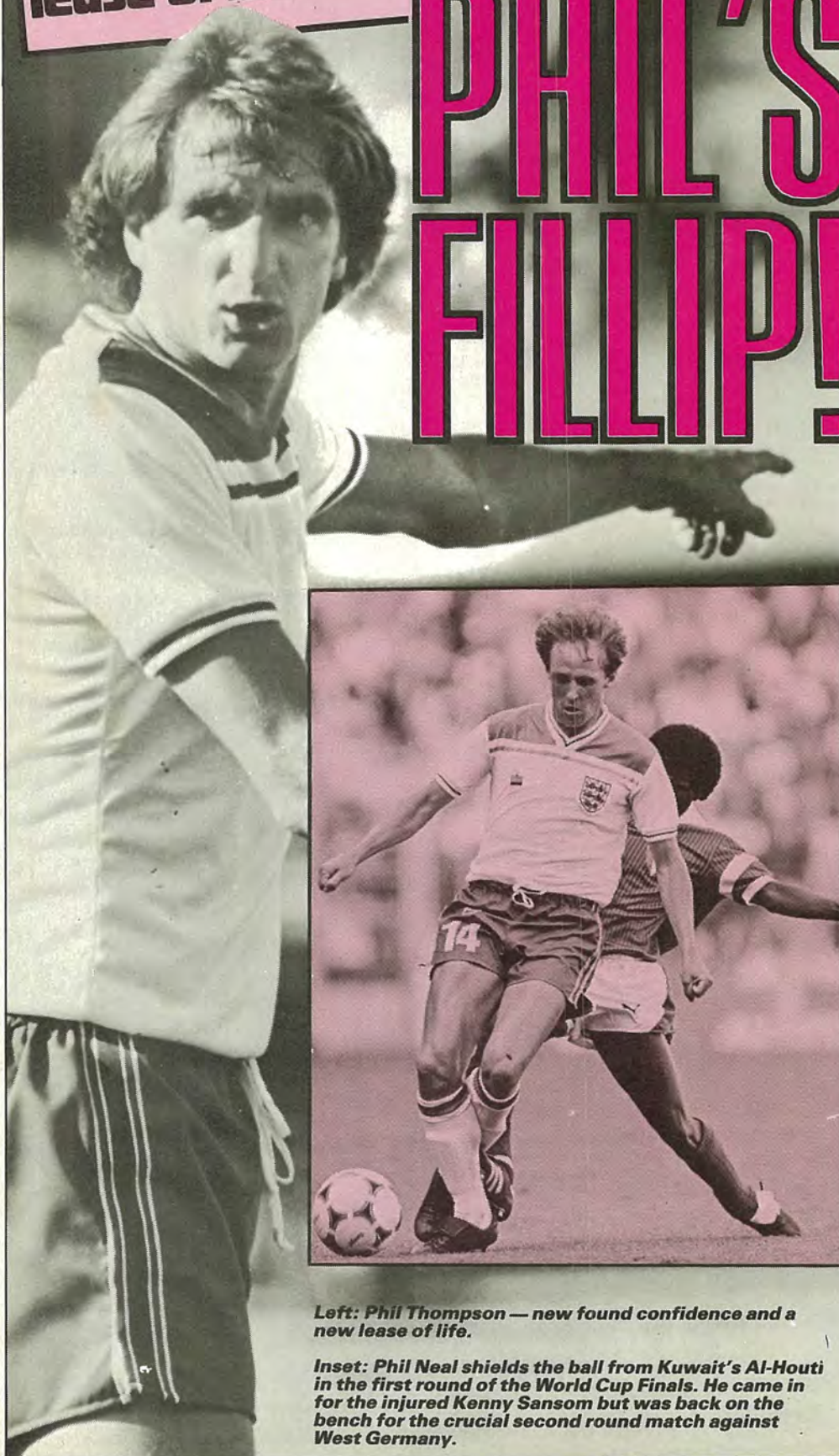


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Liverpool and England defender gets a new lease of life

'Match' highlights the contrasting World Cup fortunes of Liverpool team mates Phil Thompson and Phil Neal.

PHIL'S FILLIP!



Left: Phil Thompson — new found confidence and a new lease of life.

Inset: Phil Neal shields the ball from Kuwait's Al-Houti in the first round of the World Cup Finals. He came in for the injured Kenny Sansom but was back on the bench for the crucial second round match against West Germany.

CRAGGY defender Phil Thompson has told how his impressive return to the England team has given him a new lease of life.

There were question marks about his future with Liverpool and England after losing the captaincy and his first team place at Anfield in January.

But he bounced back two months later when Alan Hansen was injured, and retained his defensive role during the run-in to his fifth League Championship success.

And his superb form in the World Cup Finals has given him the impetus to maintain his place in the Liverpool defence next season at the expense of record signing Mark Lawrenson.

"I must admit I did think long and deep about my career, but in the end everything worked out perfectly," says the 28-year-old Merseysider.

"I found myself back in the Liverpool side, won another Championship medal, and finally worked myself back into the England squad in time for the World Cup Finals.

"What more could I have asked for?

"Playing for England in Spain has given me a new lease of life and the confidence that my game might have lacked at times last season."

And Phil believes that Liverpool are now strong enough to regain the European Cup next season.

"We have the players with the skill and right attitude to do it for us. The boss has bought wisely and replaced players in the squad at the right time," he says.

"With England and Liverpool you are never sure of your place because of the squad system.

"You certainly cannot become complacent — that would lead to you being dropped very quickly.

"Ron Greenwood and Bob Paisley are very much alike in that respect. If Liverpool win the League, then it will be down to a squad victory, not just the eleven players who play in the last game of the season.

Disappointment

But in sharp contrast to Phil's joy, Liverpool team mate Phil Neal suffered the disappointment of losing his England role to Ipswich's Mick Mills.

The 31-year-old Anfield stalwart was expected to be the England right back at the start of the World Cup Finals but he had to make way for new skipper Mick Mills and was restricted to just one full appearance, against Kuwait.

"As a professional I would have preferred to have been out there playing, but our defence played so well in the opening matches," he says.

"If it meant England doing well with me sitting on the bench, then so be it. That's more important, isn't it?"

Phil is quick to lavish praise on his successor, Mick Mills, and his Liverpool team mate Phil Thompson.

"Phil had a hard season at Anfield. He lost his place and then found it hard to get back into the team, but he re-established himself just at the right time.

"His experience at the back for England certainly helped Terry Butcher. Phil reads the game very well and his confidence was such that against Czechoslovakia in the first round of the World Cup finals he was prepared to move forward and help out in midfield.

"Mick Mills is a fine captain and has played very well. Like Phil, he reads the game very well and is seldom caught out of position.

"He motivates players very well and is a great man to have at the helm when you are under pressure."

But being a true professional, Phil wants his place back in the side.

"I'm ready to come back into the England team when called upon. And I won't let anyone down either," he says.

"All the players know there is great competition for places and that has been one of the main reasons for our recent success."

COOKE BOOKS FIRST PLACE

REVEALING our Fourth Division 'Matchman of the Year' award for 1981-82.

The award is based on marks taken from our exclusive 'Match Facts' results service which ran throughout the season.

In every League game, players were marked out of ten on their performance, so it was consistency that counted.

MATCHMAN OF THE YEAR

PLAYER	CLUB	AV.
1 Joe Cooke	Bradford	7.27
2 Mark Chamberlain	Port Vale	7.24
3 Colin Morris	Sheff. United	7.22
4 Roy McFarland	Bradford	7.16
5 Chris Price	Hereford	7.09
6 Pat Hilton	Bury	7.04
7 Roger Osborne	Colchester	7.02
8 Lee Smelt	Halifax	7.00
8 Steve Phillips	Northampton	7.00
10 David Speedie	Darlington	6.97
11 Mick Gynn	Peterborough	6.95
12 Cec Podd	Bradford	6.93
12 David Staniforth	Bradford	6.93
12 Bob Hatton	Sheff. United	6.93
15 Stewart Houston	Sheff. United	6.92
16 Tony Coyle	Stockport	6.91
17 Brian Marwood	Hull	6.90
17 Billy Kellock	Peterborough	6.90
17 Keith Edwards	Sheff. United	6.90
20 John Brown	Bury	6.88

The table above shows the top 20 most consistent performers in the Fourth Division last season together with their average mark for the year. To qualify, players must have played in at least 20 League games for one club. The tables below show the top ten most consistent performers in the various departments on the pitch, together with their average mark for the season.

GOALKEEPERS

PLAYER	CLUB	AV
1 Lee Smelt	Halifax	7.00
2 John Brown	Bury	6.88
3 Drew Brand	Hereford	6.84
4 Martin Burleigh	Hartlepool	6.77
5 Iain Hesford	Blackpool	6.74
6 Pat Cuff	Darlington	6.73
6 Keith Waugh	Sheff. Utd	6.73
6 Eddie Blackburn	York	6.73
9 Joe Neenan	Scunthorpe	6.72
10 Terry Poole	Rochdale	6.70

★★★★★★★★★★★★

DEFENDERS

PLAYER	CLUB	AV
1 Joe Cooke	Bradford	7.27
2 Roy McFarland	Bradford	7.16
3 Chris Price	Hereford	7.09
4 Pat Hilton	Bury	7.04
5 Cec Podd	Bradford	6.93
5 Stewart Houston	Sheff. Utd	6.93
7 John Impey	Bournemouth	6.76
7 John Bird	Hartlepool	6.76
9 Geoff Hunter	Port Vale	6.75
9 Steve Spooner	Halifax	6.75

★★★★★★★★★★★★

MIDFIELD

PLAYER	CLUB	AV
1 Roger Osborne	Colchester	7.02
2 David Speedie	Darlington	6.97
3 Mick Gynn	Peterboro	6.95
4 Tony Coyle	Stockport	6.91
5 Brian Marwood	Hull	6.90
5 Billy Kellock	Peterboro	6.90
7 Bruce Rioch	Torquay	6.82
8 Jimmy Harvey	Hereford	6.80
9 Arthur Mann	Mansfield	6.77
10 Adam Musial	Hereford	6.75

★★★★★★★★★★★★

FORWARDS

PLAYER	CLUB	AV.
1 Mark Chamberlain	P Vale	7.24
2 Colin Morris	Sheff. Utd	7.22
3 Steve Phillips	Northampton	7.00
4 David Staniforth	Bradford	6.93
4 Bob Hatton	Sheff. Utd	6.93
6 Keith Edwards	Sheff. Utd	6.90
7 Dave Bamber	Blackpool	6.84
8 Eamon O'Keefe	Wigan	6.81
9 Bobby Davison	Halifax	6.80
9 Brian Pollard	York	6.80

★★★★★★★★★★★★

WEST Indian-born defender Joe Cooke, who returned to Bradford City in January to figure prominently in their promotion success, ended last season as the Fourth Division's top player.

Big Joe, who started life as a striker with Bradford City, had spells with Peterborough, Oxford and finally Exeter before new player-manager Roy McFarland paved the way for his return to Valley Parade.

And his partnership at the centre of the defence with the former England and Derby favourite provided the foundation for Bradford's return to the Third Division.

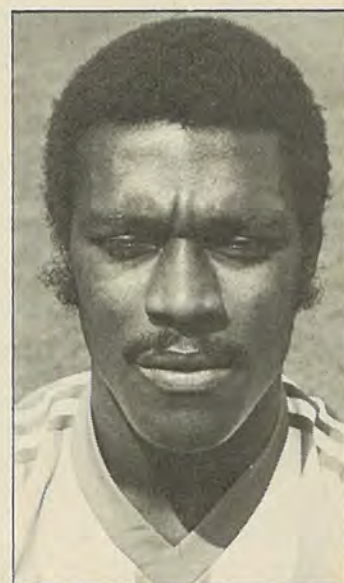
McFarland himself finished fourth in the Division Four 'table', behind Cooke, young Port Vale winger Mark Chamberlain and Sheffield United's £100,000 striker Colin Morris.

The success of Yorkshire duo Bradford and Sheffield United was reflected in the table, with both clubs having four players in the leading twenty.

Long-serving full-back Cec Podd and forward David Staniforth were the other Bradford representatives, while United had skipper Stewart Houston and twin strikers Keith Edwards and Bob Hatton well to the fore.

The top goalkeeper also came from the Yorkshire fraternity in the shape of Halifax's Lee Smelt.

The former Gravesend



Joe Cooke — 'Matchman of the Year' in Division Four last season.

'keeper, who was once understudy to Peter Shilton at Nottingham Forest, had a consistent first season with Halifax despite the club just avoiding the re-election zone.

Former FA Cup Final hero Roger Osborne was the outstanding midfield operator in the Fourth Division.

The Colchester player, who scored Ipswich Town's Wembley winner against Arsenal in 1978, will obviously be a key figure next season when his former Portman Road colleague Allan Hunter seeks promotion in his first term as player-manager of the Essex club.

MATCH ALL-STARS

HERE'S the 'Match Weekly' select XI — picked from the top players in our Division Four ratings tables:

SMELT
(Halifax)

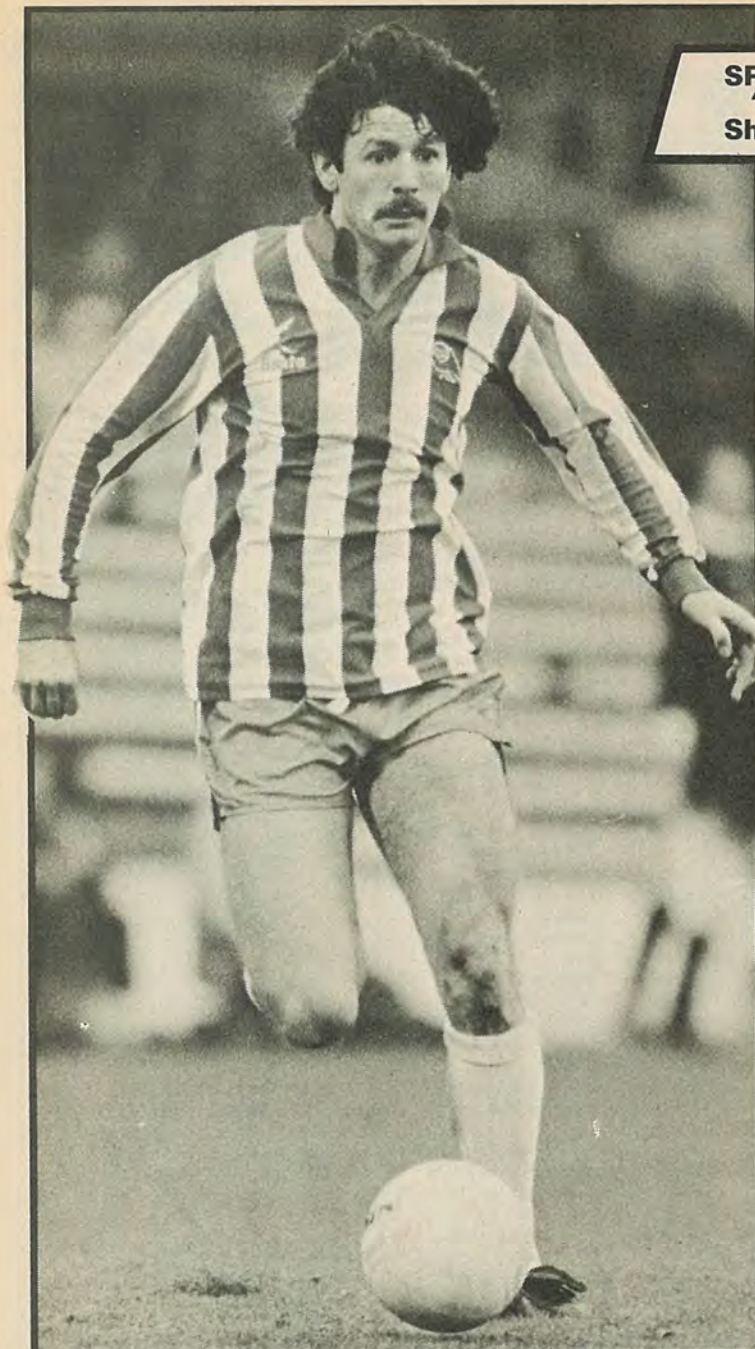
PRICE **McFARLAND** **COOKE** **HILTON**
(Hereford) (Bradford) (Bradford) (Bury)

OSBORNE **SPEEDIE** **GYNN**
(Colchester) (Darlington) (Peterborough)

MORRIS ***PHILLIPS** **CHAMBERLAIN M.**
(Sheff. United) (Southend) (Port Vale)

* Steve Phillips' rating is based on his form with Northampton — prior to his transfer to Southend.

SPOTLIGHT on the soccer hot-bed of Sheffield.
'Match' talks to the former Everton skipper who signed for Sheffield Wednesday.



TERRY FOR AN

SHEFFIELD Wednesday idol Terry Curran admits:
 "Leaving Hillsborough would be the toughest decision of my life."

His contract at Wednesday expires at the end of this month and he says: "It's up to the club to make me an offer. I'm not being outrageous or greedy — I just want security."

If Terry doesn't accept manager Jack Charlton's terms, it will open the way for city rivals United to steal in and pinch his signature.

Terry is adamant that he won't leave Sheffield. "I'm a Sheffield player. The city is made for football and I love the place."

The much-travelled striker joined Wednesday from Southampton for £100,000 in March 1979 and he's since become a firm favourite with the fans.

"There's no club I've been prouder to play for than Sheffield Wednesday," says Terry, who's seen service with Doncaster, Nottingham Forest and

Southampton and loan spells at Bury and Derby.

"I've talked to one or two clubs and I'm just hoping that their interest will prompt Wednesday to put in an offer which will secure me."

"I feel I've done quite well at Sheffield Wednesday and I believe the club are pleased with me. I've certainly been very happy here."

"But I'm 27 now and I've got to look ahead. I want to secure my future," adds Terry, who has made 124 League appearances and scored 35 goals for the 'Owls'.

"I know that whatever happens, I'll be playing in Sheffield next season. The city is football daft."

Honours

"I believe Sheffield deserves two First Division teams and both of them should be challenging for the major honours in the game. Both clubs have got the facilities to compete with the best."

"The clubs hit on hard times a couple of years ago and that was due to bad management. Fortunately, Ian Porterfield and Jack Charlton have got them on the right tracks again."

"It shows just how desperate

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Left: Fans' favourite Terry Curran in action for Sheffield Wednesday. Now he may join rivals United!

EVERTON iron man Mike Lyons was reduced to tears the day he joined Sheffield Wednesday.

It was a sad, sad day for the giant central defender as he waved goodbye to the home town club that had been his whole life for 14 years.

"It was a very sad signing," he said after his £100,000 move to the Second Division club.

"When I got home, I cried my eyes out. That's how much Everton meant to me."

"I had 14 very happy years at the club."

"But in saying it was a sad signing, I am now committed to Wednesday's bid for promotion next season."

"They have the same high class facilities as Everton and the same fervour and passion among the fans."

"They have First Division potential and are very ambitious. I just hope that my experience can help them achieve that aim next season."

"I would rather play for a club like Sheffield Wednesday in the

Second Division than for a team always struggling near the foot of the First Division."

The departure of one of Merseyside's favourite sons may have come as a surprise to some of the Goodison faithful as their skipper still had one year of his contract remaining.

Injury

But Mike could see the writing on the wall back in February when he failed to regain his place after injury due to the form of Billy Wright.

"I had an agreement with manager Howard Kendall that if the time came when I couldn't

command a first team place, I would move on," says the 30-year-old stalwart of 389 League appearances.

"I missed a couple of games through injury, and during my absence Billy Wright and Mark Higgins struck up a good understanding at the centre of the defence."

"If I had been sure of a place in the Everton side, then I would have stayed at Goodison."

But Mike leaves Everton with plenty of happy memories and the belief that they have the potential to go places.

"I enjoyed going into work on my last day just as much as I did on my first."

"There was always a good atmosphere and I have always been very happy to work for them."

"The highlight for me was being appointed captain six years ago because that had always been an ambition of mine from my schooldays."

Successes

"But I am leaving Everton in good hands. There were a lot of successes last season, notably goalkeeper Nev Southall, striker Graeme Sharp and the two central defenders, Mark Higgins and Billy Wright."

"The boss also bought Adrian

LYONS'

And we get the inside story from the current Wednesday idol who may be on his way from Hillsborough . . . to join city rivals Sheffield United!

WAITS OFFER

the fans are for success when you look at United's attendances last season. They averaged 15,000 when they were playing the Wigans and Peterboroughs of this world.

"The potential is there for a successful team in Sheffield."

Wednesday just missed out on promotion to the First Division last season and finally finished fourth behind Norwich.

"It was a sickening blow. This club deserves First Division football.

"Despite that disappointment, it was a brilliant season. The manager brought in a lot of youngsters and they showed what good prospects they are.

"But you need experienced players to help you succeed. I said when everyone was hailing Crystal Palace as the 'Team of the Eighties' that they'd get relegated. They needed a couple of older heads.

"Last season we were a bit inexperienced at the back. Jack Charlton has gone out and bought Mike Lyons from Everton and that will help immensely.

"Jack's been looking for a big centre-half for some time. He bought Jim Holton from Coventry, but the move didn't work out."

Terry's own position at Hillsborough looked uncertain

early last season when he was dropped for a game against Blackburn and missed the next six matches.

He explains: "Jack wanted me to mark Noel Brotherston, but I didn't want to do the job. I asked the manager to leave me out of the side.

"It was a decision I had to take. I felt my attacking ability was being taken away from me.

"Jack wanted me to drop back and play a much deeper role. I believe I'm best when I've got a free role up front where I can create and score goals.

Clashes

"Of course I've had clashes with Jack Charlton, but I still respect the guy. He's the best manager I've worked under."

Even though Terry doesn't know where his future lies, he can't wait for the new season to dawn.

"I'm raring to go. The new season can't start soon enough for me. I've spent most of the close season training in a gym.

"I've been sharpening up my left foot a bit."

★★★★★★★★★★★★

Right: Mike Lyons in action for Everton, where he spent 14 happy years.

NEW DEN

Heath and he did a good job.

"There are also plenty of other good young players around, so I'm sure the future looks bright for the club.

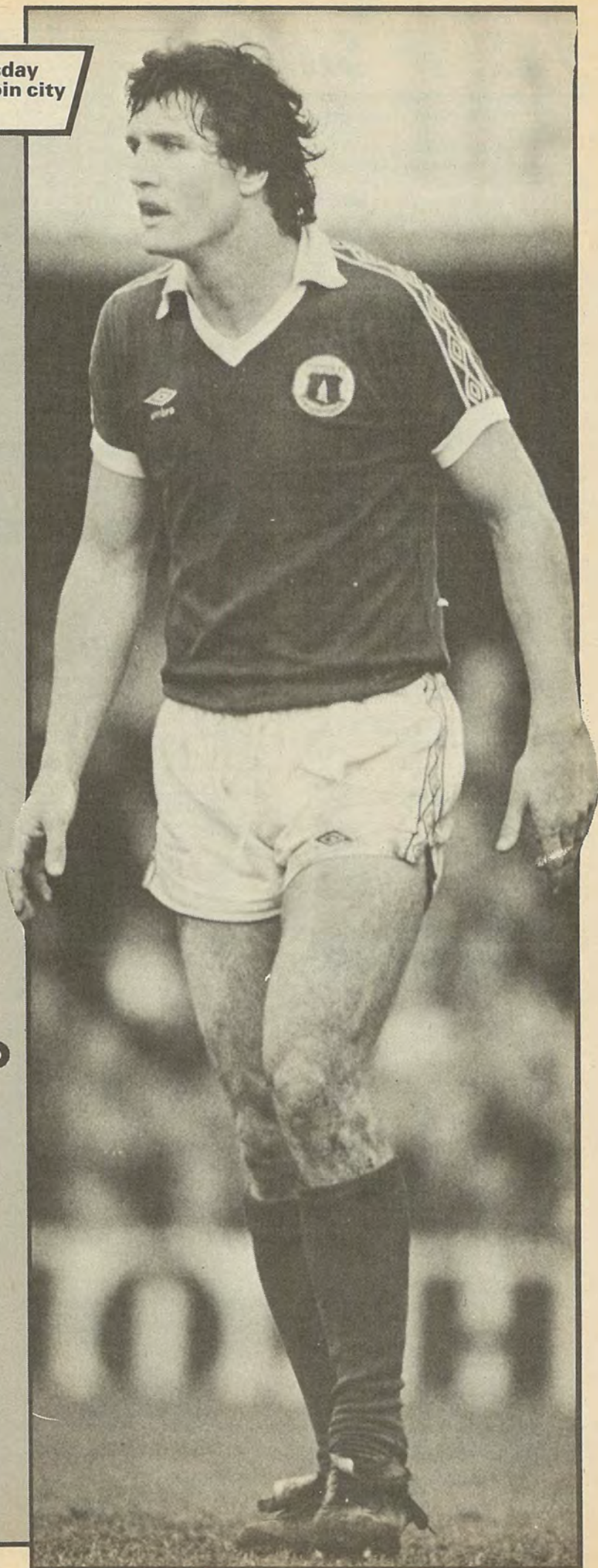
"But now my main thoughts must be with Sheffield Wednesday.

"They have a few young

players in the side and it will be up to me to try and coax the best out of them.

"I hope to instil the right spirit and get them working together as a team.

"I'm not a slacker by nature, and I will be doing my level best to inspire by example."



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OFFER: Thirty programmes (mostly Ipswich), 1979 Ipswich annual and Ajax pennant.

WANTS: Size 34 Newcastle or Derby home shirt.

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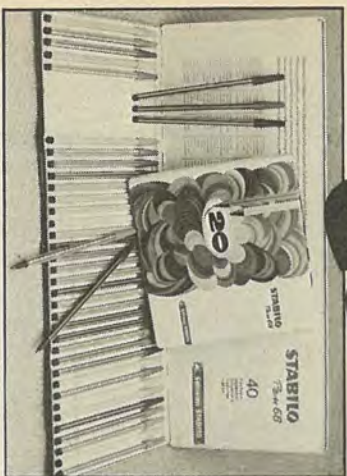
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Address

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Age

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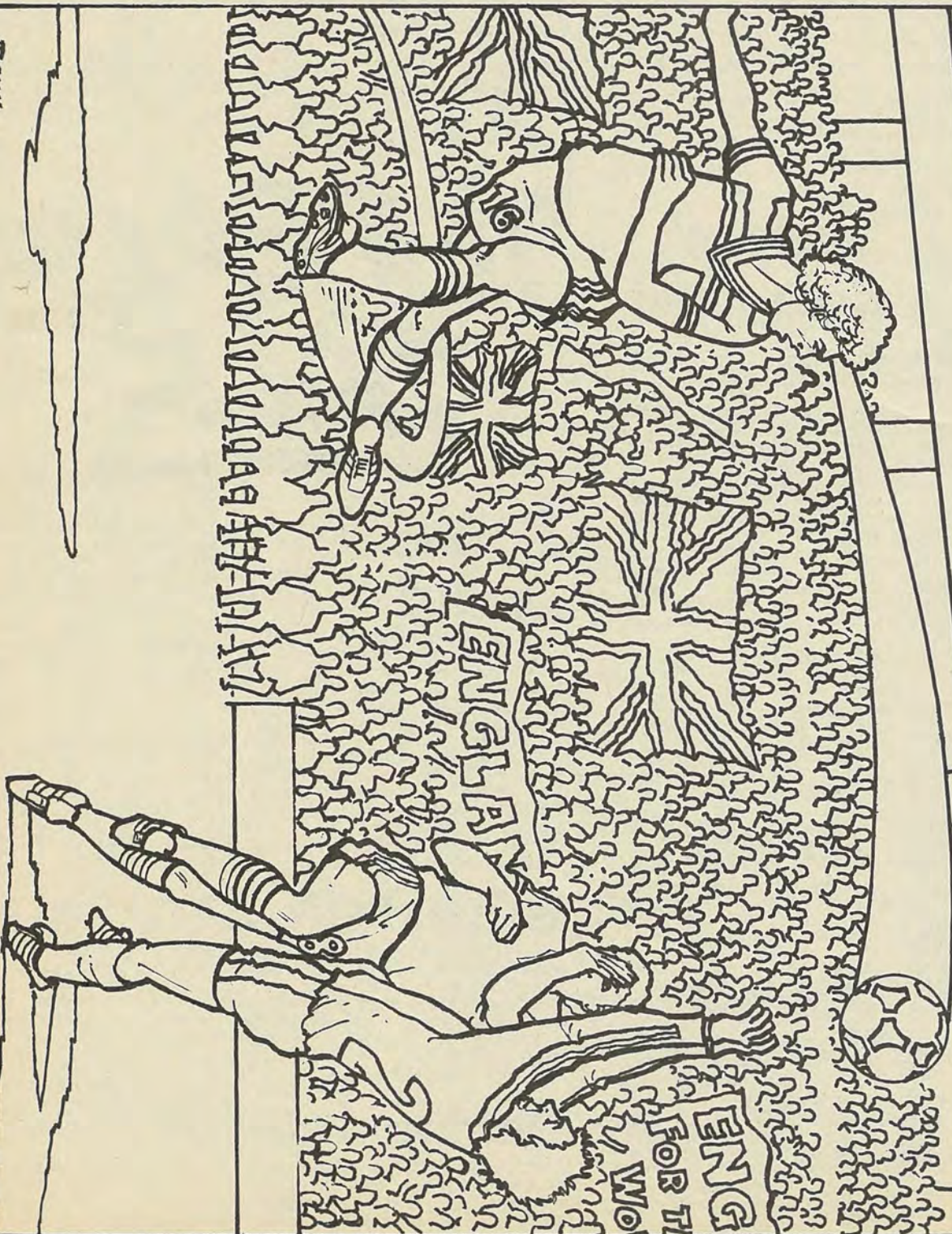


Chart-toppers

MY football Top Ten is:

- 1 One Step Further — Ipswich.
 - 2 Favourite Shirt — Kevin Keegan's number seven.
 - 3 Don't You Want Me — Aston Villa's Tony Morley.
 - 4 Down Down — Bristol City.
 - 5 We Are The Champions — Liverpool.
 - 6 The Camera Never Lies — Spurs.
 - 7 Ain't No Pleasing You — Alvin Martin.
 - 8 I Won't Let You Down — Peter Shilton.
 - 9 Imagine — Crewe.
 - 10 European Son — Aston Villa.
- Stewart Pegge (12), Broseley, Shropshire.

HERE'S my list of chartbusters:

- 1 Embarrassment — Airdrie's goalscoring record.
 - 2 Showroom Dummies — Partick Thistle.
 - 3 Making your Mind Up — Davie Hay.
 - 4 Staying Alive — Hearts.
 - 5 House of Fun — Rangers goalmouth during the Scottish Cup Final.
 - 6 Coming Up — Motherwell.
 - 7 It Ain't What You Do, It's The Way That You Do It — Morton's Andy Ritchie.
 - 8 Dog Eat Dog — Scottish Premier Division.
 - 9 Say Hello, Wave Goodbye — Tommy Docherty.
 - 10 Never In A Million Years — Meadowbank winning the Scottish Cup.
- Iain Rankin, Motherwell, Lanarkshire.

WATSON... ELEMENTARY MISTAKE

RON Greenwood's biggest mistake in choosing his World Cup 22 was naming Steve Foster (below) as a replacement centre-back.

Apart from him being the worst of the six centre-backs he had at his disposal, he has little or no international experience.

An injury to Phil Thompson would have left Terry Butcher and Foster in the centre of the England defence — up against the world's best and with a half a dozen caps between them.

He should have taken Dave Watson. He may be old but he has so much experience and he's never played badly for England.

Ian Williamson (15),
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.



Liverpool don't need luck...

THE remark by Derrick Jameson (Terrace Talk, June 5) that 'Liverpool have all the luck' really made me angry.

How can a team that has just won the League Championship for a record thirteenth time be tagged lucky?

And they had their fair share of problems to overcome in winning the title again:

● Phil Thompson had a serious leg injury which threatened his place in the side.

● Ray Kennedy, a key player in Liverpool's success over the years, left to join Swansea.

● And new players had to be blooded — all of whom were young or inexperienced, or both.

Probably the most serious change was in goal where Bruce Grobbelaar had to take over from Ray Clemence.

He obviously had his problems in adjusting to the job.

And not only did Liverpool win the title they also won the League Cup. Now how can that be down to luck?

Emma Renshaw, Bradley, Yorks.

Kevin the Great

I WOULD like to pay tribute to Kevin Keegan who fully deserves his OBE.

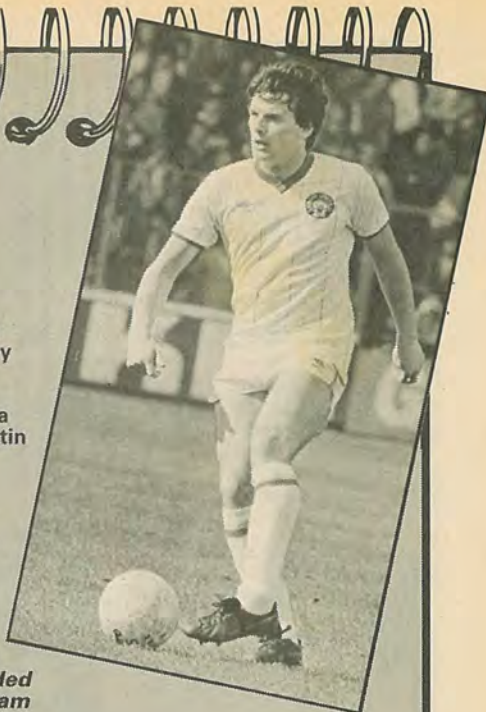
He scored more than thirty goals last season for England and Southampton and I hope he has recovered from his back injury to prove all the critics wrong in Spain.

Alex Brown, Nottingham.

EX-FOREST ALL-STARS

HERE is a team of ex-Forest players to beat the current side:

Lee Smelt (Halifax), Frank Gray (Leeds), Archie Gemmill (Jacksonville), Kenny Burns (Leeds), Larry Lloyd (Wigan), Asa Hartford (Manchester City), Martin O'Neill (Norwich), Raimondo Ponte (Bastia), Garry Birtles (Manchester United), Tony Woodcock (Arsenal), Trevor Francis (Manchester City). Sub: Stan Bowles (Brentford). Stephen Lee, Kings Heath, Birmingham.



Right: Scotland's World Cup full-back Frank Gray is included in a team of former Nottingham Forest players to beat today's team.

TERRACE TALK

Bodak's boob!

PETER Bodak jumped out of the frying pan and into the fire in joining Manchester United.

Bodak said that he didn't like it at Coventry because he was in the reserves most of the time.

What does he think is going to happen at United with players of the calibre of Robson, Coppell, Wilkins, Macari and Muhren in the first team and Moses and Duxbury waiting in the wings?

Bodak isn't a patch on any of the above players. He'll do well to

... the letters page with something to say.

We'll pay £10 for what we consider to be the star letter of the week and £2 for every other letter we publish.

Write to: 'Terrace Talk', Match Weekly, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

even break into the reserves!

He'll be lucky to make ten first team appearances for United next season and he'll be on his way from Old Trafford this time next year.

Gerard Carolan, Penshaw, Houghton-le-Spring.

GOOD FOR NOTHING!

WHAT a team this would be... and it would cost a manager absolutely nothing! All the players were given free transfers at the end of last season:

Borota (Chelsea), Craggs (Middlesbrough), Needham (Nott'm Forest), Berry (Wolves), Gillard (Q.P.R.), Bodak (Coventry), Greenhoff (Leeds), Hector (Derby), Channon (Southampton), Ashcroft (Middlesbrough), Pearson (West Ham).

E. Collins, Nottingham.

Golden Goof

"DID you know Trevor Brooking was around in 1779," asks Angela Philipp, of Woolwich, London.

"Well, neither did I until I spotted this Golden Goof in my newspaper. I know the West Ham crowd call Trevor 'Grandad', but this is going too far..."

In 1779-80 West Ham floored Arsenal 1-0 in the last Cockney Final with a 14th-minute goal from Trevor Brooking... a rare header.

Garry can glitter – with Forest



Manchester United striker Garry Birtles should return to Brian Clough at Nottingham Forest, says William Phipps in this week's 'Star Letter'.

FROM superstar to superflop — that's the road Manchester United's Garry Birtles has taken.

When he was at Nottingham Forest, the former floor tiler looked to have the world at his feet. He was an England international and the goals were going in.

But since his move to Old Trafford for more than £1m, everything has turned sour for him.

The goals just haven't come and Garry struggled all last season. I believe the pressure finally took its toll.

Forest manager Brian Clough has said publicly that he'd like to have his old striker back. I think Garry should return to the City Ground.

I'm sure 'Cloughie' could rekindle Garry's fading career. William Phipps (13), Anstey, Leicester.

EYE-CATCHING PHIL

SCOTTISH television usually covers one Scottish and one English game with goals from a second English game.

When West Ham are on TV, the player that always catches my eye is goalkeeper Phil Parkes.

From what I've seen of him, his handling, positioning and saves are fantastic but he seems to get little recognition.

Corrigan, Shilton and Clemence are all good goalkeepers, but I think Mr Greenwood should have pencilled in Phil Parkes when he named his 22 for Spain.

Gordon Robertson, Parkhall, Strathclyde.

Clash of the continents Ball is a credit to soccer

I HAVE compiled a team from South America to face the might of Europe:

SOUTH AMERICA: Fillo (Argentina), Diaz (Peru), Oscar (Brazil), Passarella (Argentina), Junior (Brazil), Ardiles (Argentina), Cerezo, Zico, Socrates (Brazil), Maradona (Argentina), Eder (Brazil).

EUROPE: Arconada (Spain), Kaltz, Briegel (West Germany), Chivadze (Russia), Scirea (Italy), Robson (England), Antognoni (Italy), Platini (France), Rummenigge (West Germany), Keegan (England), Blokhin (Russia), John Love, West Lothian, Scotland.

ENGLAND World Cup winner Alan Ball is a real credit to the game.

The Southampton veteran isn't only a great player — he's an excellent advertisement for football in general.

His dedication to the game sometimes gets him in trouble, but there's no denying that the man really loves the sport.

He's now settled down at The Dell, where his experience gives confidence to the young players around him. Keep up the good work, Alan!

Robert Taylor, Basildon, Essex.

SOUNESS IS OVER-RATED



I'M outraged that Graeme Souness has been named 'Matchman of the Year' by Match Weekly.

He is vastly over-rated. If Souness had been playing for a poor team near the bottom of the First Division, he wouldn't have made the top 50!

M. Uttley, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear.

● IF Souness was playing for any other club, then they wouldn't be a poor team any longer... and they wouldn't be near the bottom of the table. You're sent off.

No happy returns for Leeds...

I AM outraged at the people who think that Leeds United are going to bounce straight back into Division One at the first attempt.

They will find Second Division soccer much faster than the type of football they are used to.

Teams like Leicester, Q.P.R., Crystal Palace, Rotherham and Chelsea are all very good sides and will have a distinct

advantage in that they know what is required to get out of Division Two.

Leeds won't get back into the First Division for at least another five seasons.

Craig Charlton, Batley, W. Yorkshire.

● NORWICH bounced straight back so why can't Leeds? You're booked.

OUTRAGED!

OUTRAGED about something concerning soccer? Then write and tell us about it.

But remember you risk the wrath of 'Match' referee Michael Weavers who may book you or, worse still, send you off!

Just to soften the blow we'll pay £5 to the person who gets his or her marching orders and £2 to those readers whose names are taken.

Write to: 'Outraged', Match Weekley, Stirling House, Bretton, Peterborough PE3 8DJ.

I AM outraged that England were so highly rated in the World Cup betting.

Let's face it, they were very fortunate to qualify for the Finals. And a team that struggled through against the likes of Norway and Switzerland can hardly develop into world-beaters overnight.

Andrew Patterson, Portadown, N. Ireland.

Lucky, England

● MAYBE England did scrape through to Spain. But you can't knock their efforts out there. You're booked.

Withe or without

I AM outraged with England manager Ron Greenwood for including Aston Villa striker Peter Withe in his World Cup squad.

Withe is over-rated. He only just managed to score Villa's European Cup Final winner.

Paul Grennall, Yardley, Birmingham.

● THAT'S the sort of striker you need — the one who only just manages to score. The one you don't need is the one who only just manages to miss! You're booked.

THE AMAZING ZICO

AS the beat of the Samba reached fever pitch, Zico gave little New Zealand a taste of true brilliance.

The first round game was a flash old and the score was still 0-0 when

overlapping full-back Leandro found himself in space on the right.

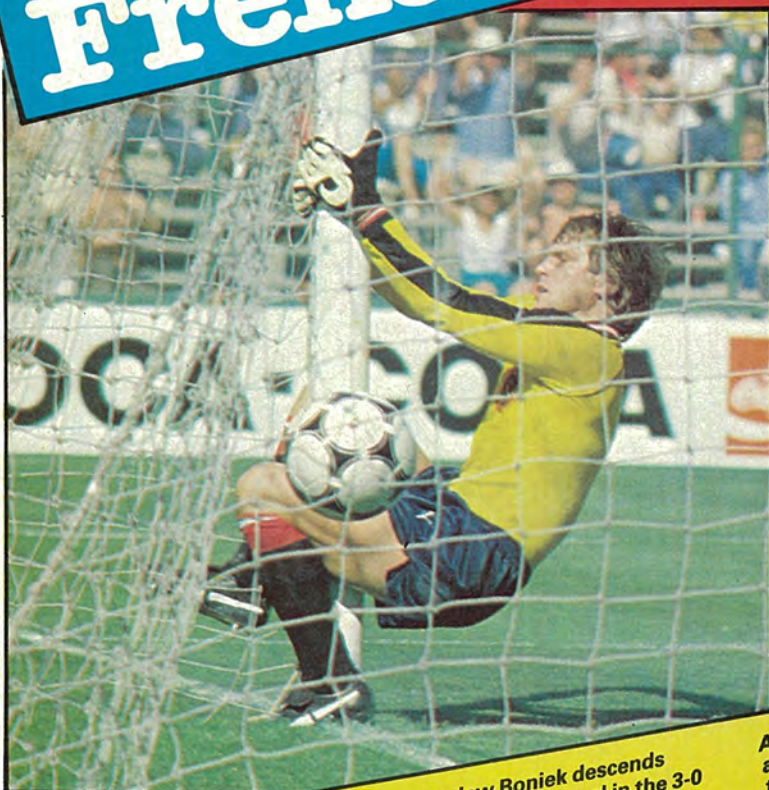
His cross found Zico, and the darling of the Brazilian fans leapt to send an

bemused Frank Van Hattum in goal as Brazil's Serginho (9) and New Zealand's Herbert looked on.

Zico added a second two minutes later and goals from Falcao (54) and Serginho (69) made the final score 4-0.

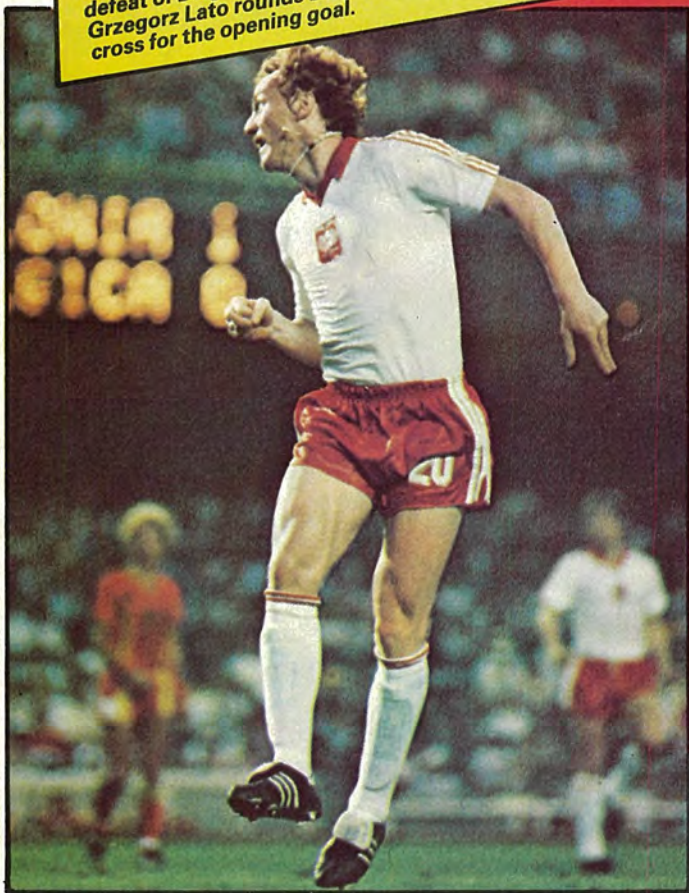


Austrians French-fried...



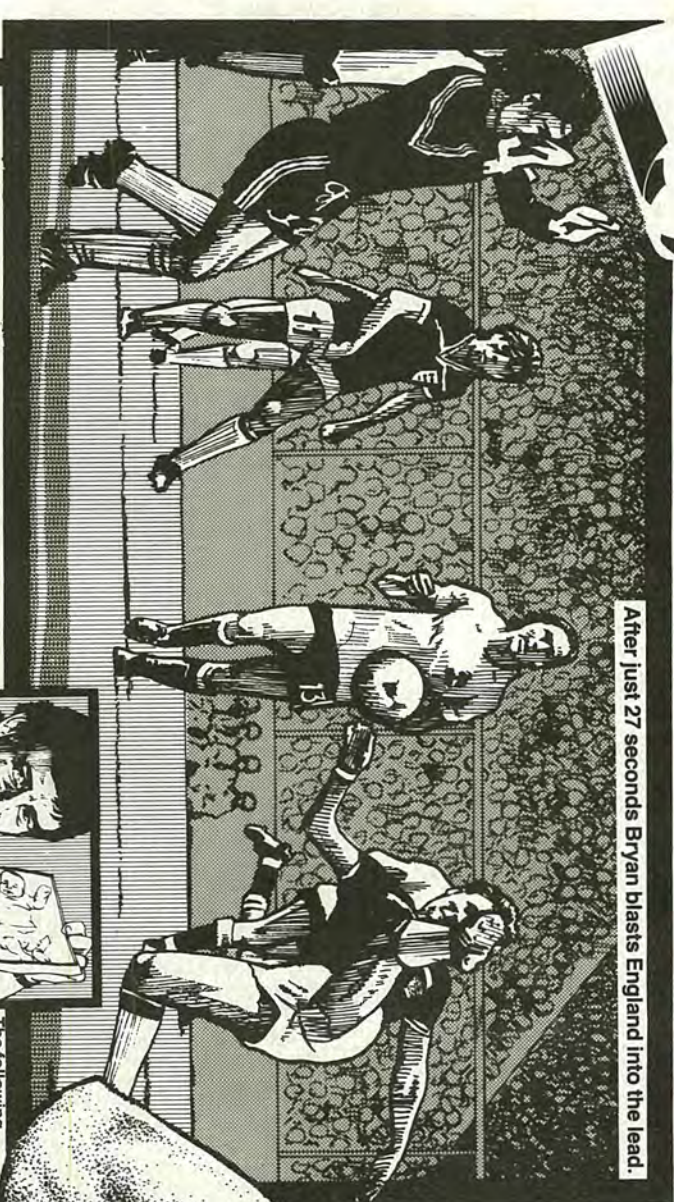
Above (left): The ball's in the net from the free-kick of Bernard Genghini as Austria goalkeeper Friedrich Koncilia collides with his post. It proved to be the match-winner as France won the Second Round match 1-0 but they didn't have it all their own way as Austria's Reinhold Hintermaier (right) shoots past France's Mariu Tresor.

Below (left): Polish midfielder star Zbigniew Boniek descends after heading home his and his country's second goal in the 3-0 defeat of Belgium in the Second Round and (right) Poland's Grzegorz Lato rounds Belgium's Luc Lillecamps to send in the cross for the opening goal.



...Belgians Pole-axed

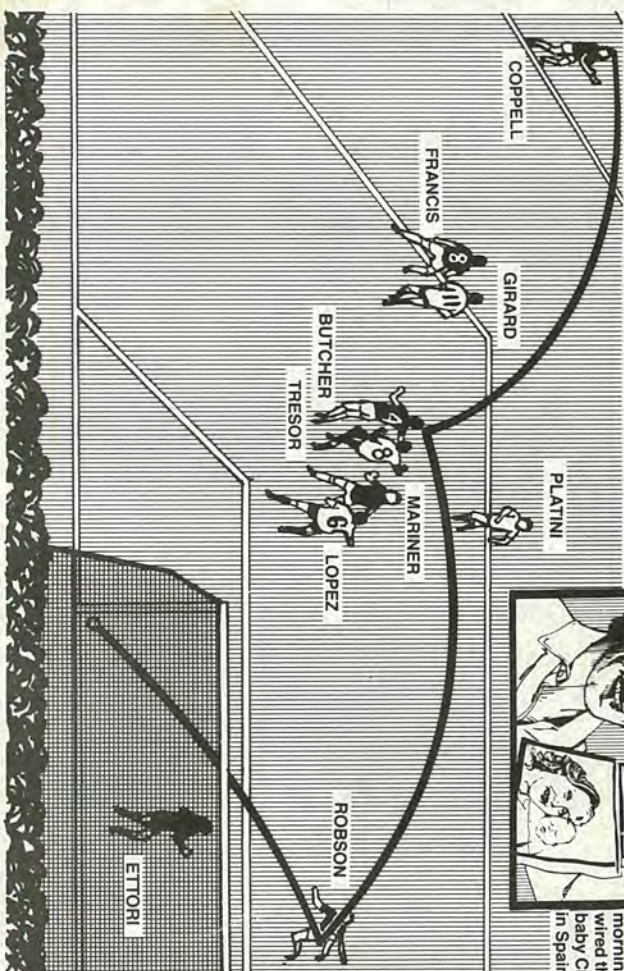
THE GOAL OF MY LIFE



After just 27 seconds Bryan blasts England into the lead.



The following morning the Daily Star wired the first pictures of baby Charlotte out to Bryan in Spain.



BRYAN ROBSON

ENGLAND 3 FRANCE 1

World Cup Finals, Bilbao, Spain, June 16, 1982

ENGLAND midfielder Bryan Robson wrote himself into the record books in his first ever appearance in a World Cup Finals.

His sensational opening goal against France in England's first match out in Spain was scored after just 27 seconds. And that made it the fastest goal in the history of the Finals — beating by two seconds that scored by Frenchman Bernard Lacombe against Italy in 1978.

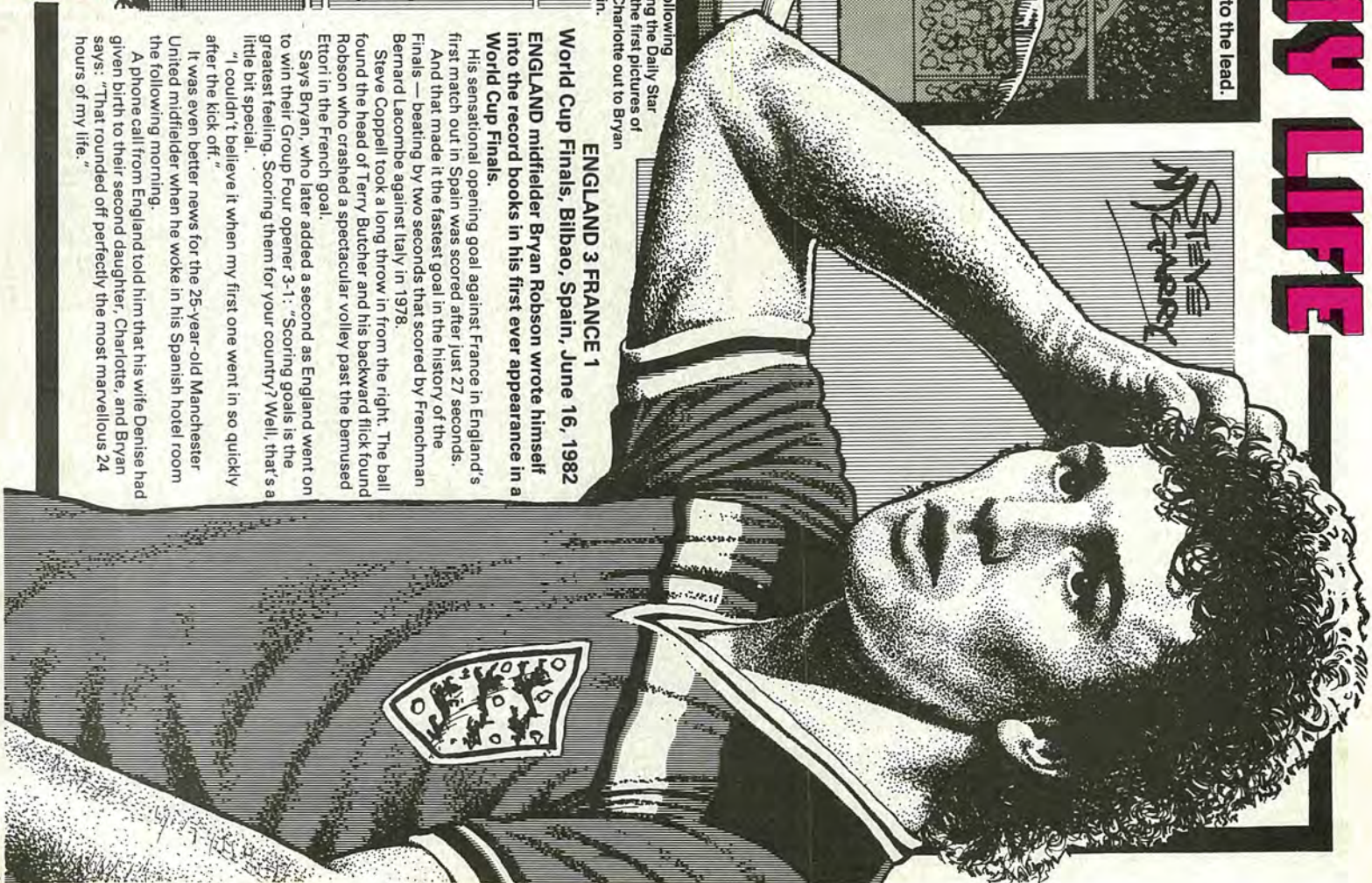
Steve Coppell took a long throw in from the right. The ball found the head of Terry Butcher and his backward flick found Robson who crashed a spectacular volley past the bemused Ettori in the French goal.

Says Bryan, who later added a second as England went on to win their Group Four opener 3-1: "Scoring goals is the greatest feeling. Scoring them for your country? Well, that's a little bit special.

"I couldn't believe it when my first one went in so quickly after the kick off."

It was even better news for the 25-year-old Manchester United midfielder when he woke in his Spanish hotel room the following morning.

A phone call from England told him that his wife Denise had given birth to their second daughter, Charlotte, and Bryan says: "That rounded off perfectly the most marvellous 24 hours of my life."





WORLD

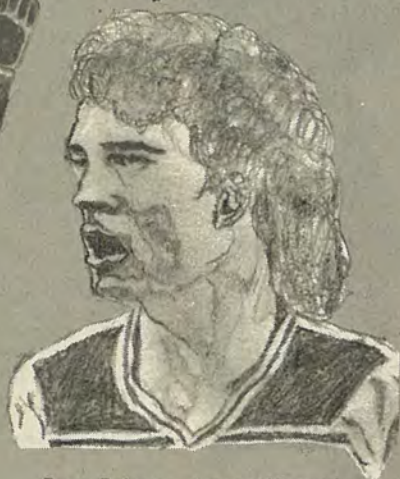
**STAR
GALLERY**

CUP

"Defender Phil Thompson of Liverpool has forged a tremendous partnership with Terry Butcher during the World Cup Finals," says Christopher Evans (14), of Rugeley, Staffs.



Brazil goalkeeper Valdir Peres has been drawn by Ian Barnes (12), of Grays, Essex.



Bryan Robson — two goal hero of England's World Cup opener against France — is "our best midfielder", according to David Jeremiah (12) of Fulham.

Brian Francis of Dalston, London claims: "Northern Ireland 'keeper Pat Jennings is among the best in the World."



A season to savour for Stevenson

It was quite a season for Burnley's long-serving goalkeeper Alan Stevenson.

Apart from being the only ever-present player in Burnley's Third Division Championship side, he also passed two personal milestones.

The former Chesterfield 'keeper made his 500th League appearance during the course of the season and also made his 400th for the Lancashire club.

So it was a year to savour for Alan. But it began in disastrous fashion as he told 'Match Weekly':

"Confidence was really low after a diabolical start to the season. We looked like relegation candidates.

"It was the lowest point of my career at Turf Moor.

"But what started out as a disastrous season turned out to be a fantastic one for us."

As well as Alan, several other club stalwarts also maintained their consistency during the season.

Fulham full back Les Strong was a prominent figure in their promotion-winning side, completing his 350th League appearance for the club in the process.



Alan Stevenson — made his 400th appearance for Burnley.

And goalkeeping rivals Roy Burton (Oxford) and Jimmy Allan (Swindon) both surpassed milestones with their only clubs.

Roy topped the 350 mark as Oxford just missed out on promotion, while Jimmy overhauled the 300-mark for Swindon, who face Fourth Division football next season.

In fact, the Third Division was a place for consistent goalkeepers.

Of the 22 players to play in all their club's League matches, eight were goalkeepers.

● Next week: Focus on the 'ever-presents' in Division Four.

EVER-PRESENTS

An exclusive 'Match Weekly' guide to last season's Third Division ever-presents — those players who didn't miss a single League game for their clubs.

DIVISION THREE

Club	Player	League apps. for club	Total League apps.	Goals last season	Total goals for club	Total goals career
BRISTOL CITY	Paul Stevens	61	61	1	1	1
BRISTOL ROVERS	David Williams	266	266	10	47	47
BURNLEY	Alan Stevenson	406	510	0	0	0
CARLISLE	Trevor Swinburne	206	216	0	0	0
	Jackie Ashurst	46	239	1	1	8
CHESTERFIELD	Phil Bonnyman	99	322	14	25	58
EXETER	Tony Kellow	209	266	21	91	114
FULHAM	Les Strong	369	369	1	6	6
	Roger Brown	86	165	10	12	15
HUDDERSFIELD	Malcolm Brown	210	221	1	7	7
LINCOLN	David Carr	137	180	1	4	4
	Tony Cunningham	118	118	11	29	29
NEWPORT	Mark Kendall	74	112	0	0	0
OXFORD	Roy Burton	385	385	0	0	0
	David Fogg	255	416	3	11	11
PLYMOUTH	Geoff Crudgington	129	436	0	0	0
	John Sims	120	230	18	33	59
	Kevin Hodges	143	143	11	21	21
PRESTON	Don O'Riordan	117	125	3	3	4
SWINDON	Jimmy Allan	318	318	0	0	0
WALSALL	Ron Green	111	111	0	0	0
WIMBLEDON	Dave Beasant	82	82	0	0	0

'Match' highlights the opening day fixtures . . . and the jinx that could spell doom for one First Division club.

ALBION

FIRST DAY HOODOO HAUNTS WEST BROM

WEST Brom are doomed to be relegated to the Second Division!

The managerless Midlands club, who just missed the drop last term, play champions Liverpool on the first day of the season.

And incredibly, the last four clubs who've played Liverpool on opening day have all been relegated.

Even though Wolves pulled off a shock 1-0 win over the Anfield giants last season, the writing was on the wall for the troubled club and they followed Crystal Palace (1980-81), Bolton (79-80) and QPR (78-79) as Liverpool's 'first day victims'.

But West Brom's England-rated full-back Derek Statham doesn't believe his team will become the fifth club in a row to fall to the Liverpool jinx.

"Of course all the players are aware of Liverpool's deadly sequence, but we'll be going flat out to end their run. I don't believe Albion will get relegated.

"It's an amazing coincidence, but it's got to end some time and we're the team to do it.

"Although Anfield isn't the ideal place to start a League campaign, my thinking is that you've got to play there some time during a season. It might as well be sooner than later."

West Brom very nearly didn't get the opportunity of playing Liverpool in the first game of the season. They had to wait for the last game of the campaign to secure their First Division future last time around.

"Our heads dropped after the FA Cup Semi-Final defeat by Second Division

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Right: Derek Statham — refuses to believe West Brom will become the fifth victim in a row of the Liverpool jinx.

QPR and we just couldn't get out of the rut. Nothing seemed to go right for us.

"It wasn't really until our last Saturday fixture of the season against Notts County that I began to realise how serious our plight was. We had to win to stay up.

"But I don't think we'll struggle this time. We've all learned from our painful experiences of last season.

"A victory over Liverpool would be the best possible way of starting the new campaign."

Down at Carrow Road, newly-promoted Norwich face Manchester City in a game which is full of intrigue.

There is still a lot of bad feeling among the 'Canaries' fans towards Maine Road boss John Bond. They are angry at the

way he left Norwich in October 1980, and his subsequent remarks regarding his former assistant Ken Brown, now manager of Norwich.

On the field, Northern Ireland's World Cup skipper Martin O'Neill is relishing the prospect of facing his old boss.

The midfield star left Norwich in the close season to join the Maine Road side. He stayed for less than six months and made just 13 League appearances before returning to Norwich to play a major role in their promotion drive.

Martin was in Madrid preparing for Northern Ireland's second phase matches when he heard the first day fixtures.

"It's a great opening game for us. We couldn't have wished for a better start to the season.

"I'm aware that Norwich are not fond of John Bond and there will be a tremendous atmosphere at Carrow Road.

"I didn't get on with him myself, but I don't feel I've got anything to prove. I've won enough medals in my career to put me above that.

"But there's no doubt that much more than three points will be at stake," adds Martin.

Watford, in the Fourth Division just four years ago, get their first taste of life at the top when they entertain Merseyside giants Everton at Vicarage Road.

Second Division champions Luton mark their return to the top flight with a match against FA Cup holders Tottenham and that game will mean something special to Wales skipper Paul Price who moved from Kenilworth Road to Spurs in June last year.

And in the Second Division, Blackburn striker Norman Bell is relishing his return to Molineux for his club's opening game against troubled Wolves.

He moved north in November last year for £70,000 because he couldn't claim a regular place in the Wolves side.

Norman, who spent nine and a half years at Molineux, says: "I had a feeling that our first game of the season would be against Wolves.

"It's a great start for me and I'm really looking forward to going back to the club. I've still got a lot of friends there. It would be great if I could do well against them.

"In a way, my return will be a little sad because I'd have loved the meeting to have taken place in the First Division.

"It didn't give me any pleasure to see them go down," adds Norman.

"I was amazed at all the trouble the club went through in the latter half of last season because, when I left, everything seemed to be going smoothly.

"I just hope manager Ian Greaves can get the team on the right track again. If he does, I'm sure Wolves will be challenging for promotion next season."



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DOOMED!



Action from Liverpool's opening game last season against Wolves. Liverpool's Craig Johnston is tackled by Wolves match-winner Mick Matthews as Terry McDermott (10) looks on. While Wolves won the game 1-0, they were still relegated. Will the same now happen to West Brom?

★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★★

Sheffield Wednesday manager Jack Charlton faces relegated Middlesbrough, the club he led to the First Division, in his team's opening game of the season.

FA Cup finalists, QPR, travel to Newcastle for their first game and they'll be hoping to repeat last season's success at St James' Park.

John Gregory, Clive Allen, Mike Flanagan and Simon Stainrod all scored in a 4-0 win over the fellow promotion chasers.

Leeds get their first taste of Second Division football since 1964 when they make the trip to Grimsby, who narrowly escaped relegation last season.

● Don't miss next week's 'Match' for the first part of your super cut-out-and-keep guide to next season's fixtures.

FIRST DAY FIXTURES — AUGUST 28

DIVISION ONE

Aston Villa v Sunderland
Brighton v Ipswich
Coventry v Southampton
Liverpool v West Brom
Man. United v Birmingham
Norwich v Man. City
Notts County v Swansea
Stoke v Arsenal
Tottenham v Luton
Watford v Everton
West Ham v Nottingham Forest

DIVISION TWO

Burnley v Bolton
Cambridge v Chelsea
C. Palace v Barnsley
Derby v Carlisle
Fulham v Rotherham
Grimsby v Leeds
Leicester v Charlton
Newcastle v QPR
Oldham v Shrewsbury
Sheffield Wed. v Middlesbrough
Wolves v Blackburn

DIVISION THREE

Bournemouth v Walsall
Bradford v Reading
Brentford v Bristol Rovers
Cardiff v Wrexham
Chestertield v Orient
Doncaster v Newport
Gillingham v Oxford
Huddersfield v Exeter
Lincoln v Wigan
Plymouth v Southend
Portsmouth v Sheffield United
Preston v Millwall

DIVISION FOUR

Aldershot v Tranmere
Bristol City v Hull
Bury v Hereford
Chester v Crewe
Colchester v Halifax
Darlington v Rochdale
Hartlepool v Scunthorpe
Mansfield v Blackpool
Stockport v Peterborough
Swindon v Port Vale
Wimbledon v Northampton
York v Torquay



"To prove that it really should have been a penalty, we are checking the ball for fingerprints!"

PETER BODSWORTH.



"Shoot!"

It's Fun Time



"Tell him if he kicks me again, he'll spend the rest of the World Cup in hospital!"

FOOTBALL CRAZY

by MITCH

LOOK, LADS, WINNING ISN'T ALL THAT IMPORTANT—IT'S THE SPIRIT THAT COUNTS!

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BRITAIN'S No.1
ANGLING WEEKLY

Angling Times

ASA HARTFORD TELLS 'MATCH'

ON the eve of the World Cup Final, former Scotland skipper Asa Hartford is looking forward to his country's newest challenge.

Scottish manager Jock Stein is expected to make changes and bring in new faces for the forthcoming European Championship qualifiers.

And, along with such experienced internationals as Danny McGrain and Kenny Dalglish, Asa's future has come in for much speculation.

But the Manchester City midfielder star — a veteran of 50 games — still believes he has an international future.

"I certainly haven't given up hope of playing for Scotland again, but whether I'm picked or not is up to the manager.

"If I get off to a good start next season, I stand as much chance as anyone else of being selected.

"After the World Cup Finals, the manager may well decide to bring in two or three new players. It's up to me to do my best and prove I should be selected."

Scotland face a difficult task in their bid to qualify for the 1984 European Championships in France, having been paired with East Germany, Switzerland and Belgium, runners-up in 1980.

They open their programme with a home game against East Germany on October 13.

And Asa believes that Scotland's exploits in the World Cup Finals could help in his country's European Championship challenge.

"There's no doubt that we blew our chance of making it to the second phase in Spain because of our self-destructive tendency to give away silly goals.

"Those two we conceded against New Zealand cost us a place in the later stages.

"I just hope we've learnt by those mistakes and that we put it right in our European Championship matches."

For the third World Cup running, Scotland failed to make the second round on goal difference.

"Even though we were in the hardest group of all, I felt we were desperately unlucky not to go through."

The former Everton and West Brom star was restricted to just one appearance in the Finals — against Brazil.

"I didn't really expect to play against New Zealand because the manager had stated scoring goals was important in that game and he was going to field an attacking side.

"Although I was replaced by Kenny Dalglish in the second half of the Brazilian match, I was disappointed to miss our vital game against the USSR.

'I'M NOT READY FOR THE SCOTTISH SCRAPHEAP'



Above: Manchester City's midfielder star Asa Hartford, who believes he still has an international future with Scotland.

THE Scottish team selection during the World Cup Finals threw up speculation that it may be the end of the international road for some of Scotland's more experienced stars.

One such player is Asa Hartford, but the Manchester City midfielder ace still believes he can do a job for his country as they prepare for the European Championships.

"But the man who replaced me — Joe Jordan — played really well and opened the scoring in the 15th minute.

"It was very disappointing for us to go out at the expense of the USSR because I believe we are better team than them.

"I wouldn't have minded if we'd been beaten by a better side. We didn't complain when we went down to Brazil.

"Having said that, we returned home to Scotland with pride and dignity. It was certainly much better than Argentina four years ago."

There has been talk during the summer of the 31-year-old moving south to Chelsea but Asa says: "I won't be going to Stamford Bridge.

"As far as I'm concerned, I've got another two years of my contract to run at Maine Road and I'll be happy to stay at City."

Meanwhile, back on the international front, manager Jock Stein believes he's got the basis of a side that can qualify for the European Championships.

"I have plenty to work with. Alex McLeish, Davie Provan and George Burley are standing by to

come in, while the World Cup has certainly helped players like Willie Miller and David Narey.

"The last two, in particular, showed great improvement during the competition."

The manager also praised the contribution of former

Nottingham Forest team-mates John Robertson and Frank Gray.

"I have never seen Frank play three better games for Scotland and John Robertson has improved out of all recognition.

"John worked hard for his place and for someone who looked absolutely hopeless before we left, his displays were top class."

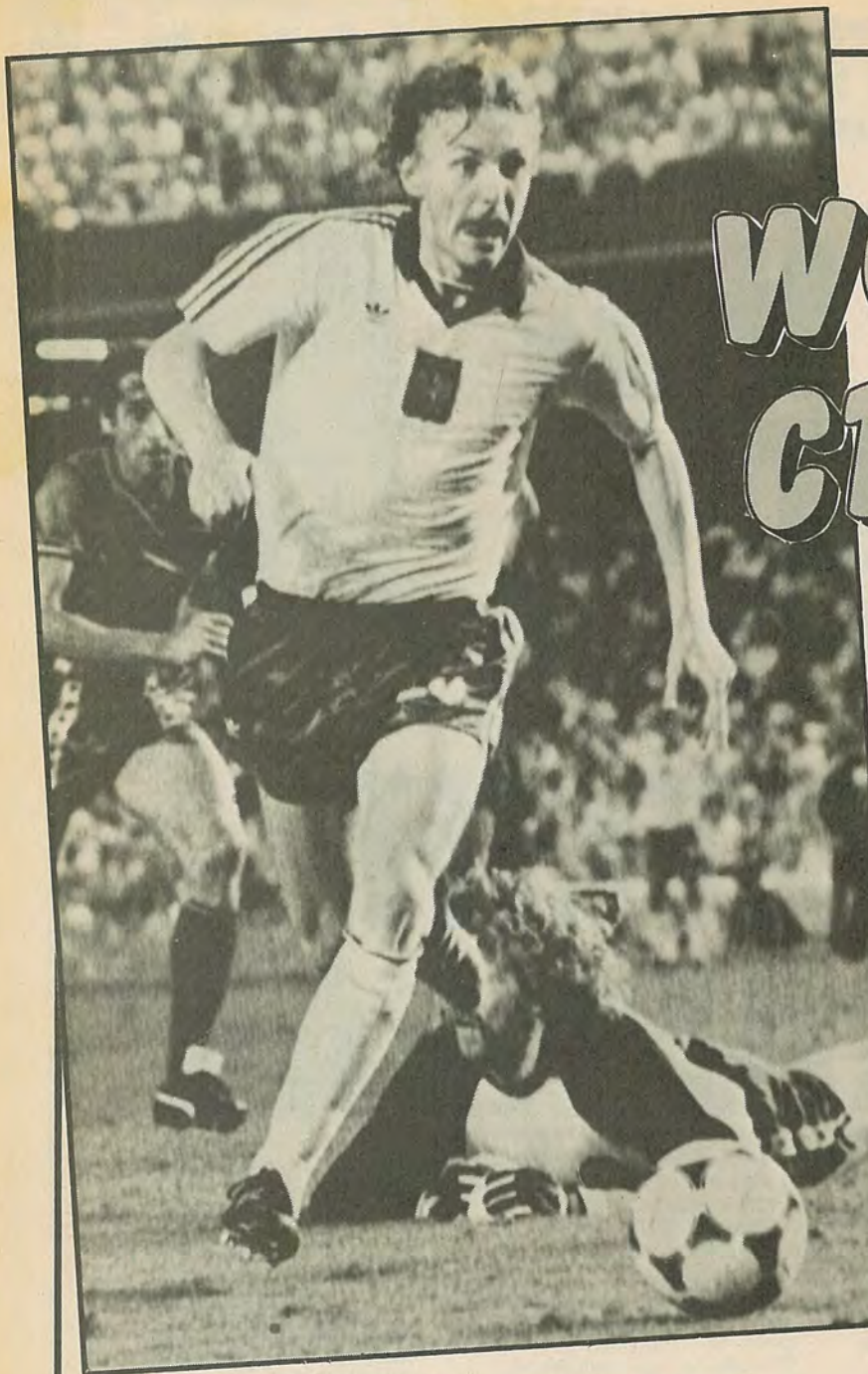
Robertson, at 29, is the oldest of the seven players named by Jock Stein who will possibly form a nucleus of his European Championship squad.

AC Milan's Joe Jordan... opened the scoring for Scotland in their vital game against the USSR.



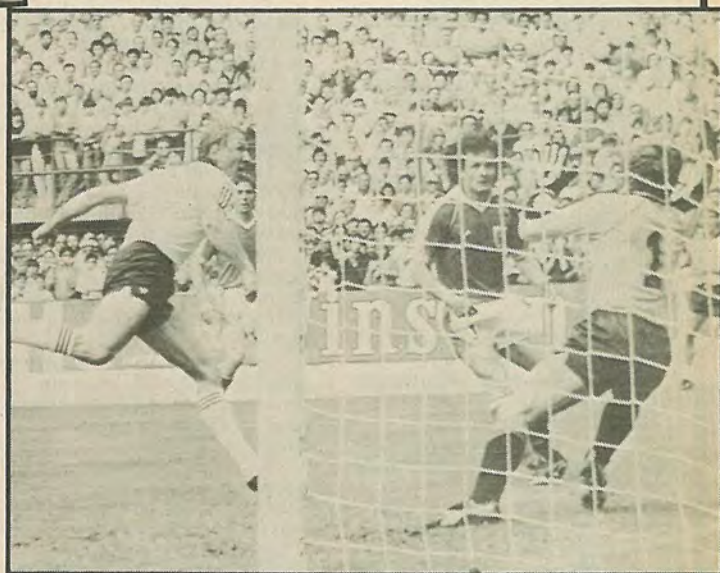
WORLD CUP CRACKERS

**Match is the
magazine that captures
the great World
Cup goals!**



Above right: French star Bernard Genghini bends the ball round the Austrian wall to give his country a 1-0 first round victory. Also in the picture are Hattenberger (6), Hintermaier (10) and Prohaska.

Above: Polish striker Boniek completes his hat-trick against Belgium as he rounds 'keeper Custers to give his country a 3-0 victory in their first match in the second phase.



Left: Brazil skipper Socrates (hidden by 13, Daraselia) whacks home his country's equaliser during their 2-1 win over USSR in the first round.

Above: Horst Hrubesch heads West Germany into the second phase of the World Cup Finals as his effort beats Austrian 'keeper Friedrich Koncilia to give the Germans a 1-0 win.



NEXT WEEK... NEXT WEEK

This is the issue you can't afford to miss:

THE WORLD CUP FINAL IN COLOUR

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Match Weekly brings you unrivalled coverage of the Madrid spectacular, the views of the stars and the pick of the action — **IN COLOUR!**

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MATCH WINNERS

THE latest Subbuteo football game — produced to celebrate the World Cup Finals — is on its way to 'Match' reader Ian Dunherley of Royton, Lancs, as the lucky winner of the 'Spot the Ball' competition which appeared in our June 19 issue.

Two runners-up each receive Subbuteo's new 'indoor' edition and they are: Paul Gibson, Sunderland, Tyne and Wear and Martin Creed, Bearsted, Kent.

Plus

FIXTURES

● The first part of our comprehensive guide to next season's League fixtures.

MATCHMAN OF THE YEAR

● We name the Scottish Premier Division's 'Matchman of the Year'.

'EAT YOUR WORDS'

says **TONY WOODCOCK**

ARSENAL's new striker Tony Woodcock believes England have answered the critics with their performances in the World Cup Finals.

"We have had a lot of knockers over the past two years and the players came to Spain wanting to prove themselves," says the former Cologne forward.

"We have thought a lot, we have run a lot, and there has been a bit of football there at the end.

"The people back home must be thinking: 'they are not so bad as we have been saying'.

"There is a lot of pressure involved in the World Cup and some people feel it more than others. We don't think we have been under as much pressure as other teams."

Certainly one of the successful factors from England's point of view has been the understanding shown in midfield by Manchester United pair Ray Wilkins and Bryan Robson.

They have been key figures in the engine room, and their prominence in Spain augurs well for United next season.

"We have formed a natural partnership. At United, we try to mix it up, but at international level we play to Bryan's strength which is getting into the penalty area," says Ray.

In the match against Kuwait, when Bryan was absent, Glenn Hoddle and myself tended to go forward at the same time and vice versa, but I know exactly where Bryan will be at any given time. It is a bonus to have that understanding."

In the meantime, all the signs point to Ipswich's Bobby Robson inheriting an England squad that has put the country back on the world soccer map after some lean years.

Although insisting that England's World Cup campaign takes priority, Bobby realises that he is just a nod away from succeeding Ron Greenwood.

"The job has been offered to me. I have spoken to the Football Association and put certain provisos to them," he explains.

"It is just a question of us getting together again to reach a decision which suits both of us.

"It would be a wrench to leave Ipswich, and I'm not saying that I have gone yet. I haven't.

"I would like to think that it will happen, and I hope it will happen. It's like a politician being offered the Prime Minister's job. It's the pinnacle of anyone's career.

"I have a duty to take the job. Someone has to do it and if they say I'm the man, I think I have to take it. It would be a tremendous challenge."



Tony Woodcock: "The players came to Spain wanting to prove themselves."



Above: Argentina's Osvaldo Ardiles puts his foot on the ball as he bids to round Italy's Francesco Graziani and get his country back into the game.

Right: Italy's Bruno Conti challenges for a high ball with Argentina's Mario Kempes during Italy's shock victory in the Second Round.

Below: Gabriel Calderon races away with the ball for Argentina but it was Italy who raced into a 2-0 lead and despite skipper Daniel Passarella pulling one back for the holders the score stayed at 2-1.

Below (right): Argentina's Diego Maradona (10) is racing away to take the pass but the game is stopped as Daniel Bertoni is brought down by Italy's Bruno Conti.



Arriverderci Argentina!

